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CHEERS & JEERS FOR POTENCY

In the past year, it was hard to avoid the nationwide blitz of pot-potency propaganda unleashed by the federal government. Spurred by the University of Mississippi's Potency Monitoring Project, which ominously reported that THC levels in marijuana had doubled over the past 25 years, the Feds sounded every alarm they could come up with: psychosis, addiction, respiratory disease—even that this new marijuana could *kill* you!

Obviously, everyone who smokes good pot knows deep in their stoned souls that this is hogwash. This month, Paul Armentano, deputy director of NORML, gives credence to your misgivings in "Killer Weed," puncturing the myth of pot's new, allegedly lethal potency by revealing the outrageous distortion of data that has fueled this overblown controversy.

All the same, everybody on our side also agrees that pot in 2009 will likely be even better than the year before. Our volume of cultivation wisdom increases annually, and so does the population of growers. So, too, does the number of outstanding strains available for cultivation.

Ironically, it wasn't the growers who set this trend in motion:

It was the prohibitionists who drove the growers indoors. Remember, when outdoor pot flourished in the early '70s, there was no DEA, no organized anti-drug interdiction programs. But as pot crime-fighting funds began to roll in and the Drug War amped up, the risk of getting caught red-handed in an outdoor garden or transporting a load of weed became a lot less attractive.

But prohibition didn't stop the population of people who enjoy smoking good marijuana from mushrooming. Naturally, business was made easier when grow ops could be managed nearer to a metropolitan marketplace rather than in a field outside of town. And when a grower can check on a plant daily and experiment in a closed, secure environment, miracles can occur.

Praise the Lord!

As the New Year kicks off, we salute the star strains of '09, and the star growers who made them so wonderfully—well—potent.

Mendo Purps is known for its double-digit THC.



MG IMAGING

Omni-potently,

Dan Skye

Dan Skye
Senior Editor

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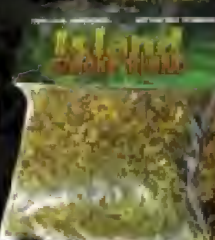
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HIGH TIMES



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34 STONER INK

BY JUSTIN HAMPTON

As tattooing seeps deeper into the skin of mainstream America, people are pushing the limits when choosing an epidermal manifesto. Whether you're the inker or the inked, pot tats are more than a statement—they're a commitment.

40 CANADIAN STRAIN REPORT

This report comes straight out of British Columbia and features the ever-popular Burmese line, an exotic and potent herb from the Far East. This compelling story tells how the Burmese lineage made its way to BC. Jam-packed with stats and info about these amazing genetics!

46 THE \$1000 GROWROOM

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

How and where to save dollars while maintaining safety and still growing primo buds. This story details how to set up simple yet effective grow ops for the home or hobbyist grower looking to grow their own head stash.

56 NEXT YEAR'S KNOCKOUTS

A visual pictorial featuring some of our favorite new cannabis strains for 2009. Feast on some serious eye candy as we present picture-perfect pot from the future farmers of America and beyond...

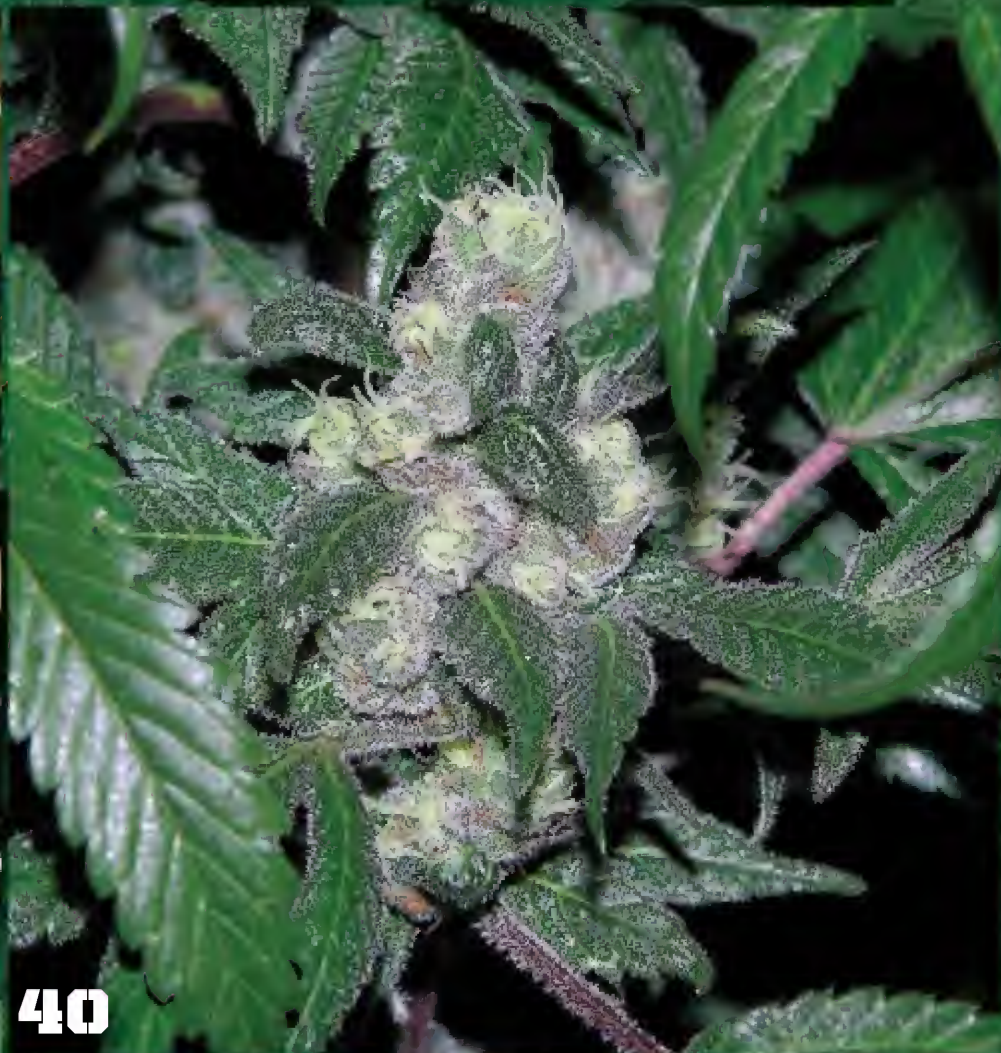
64 KILLER WEED

BY PAUL ARMENTAND

The government issued a blitz of panic-inducing headlines about pot and potency in 2008. But what's the real deal regarding high-powered pot? The myths get debunked and the Fed's hot air balloons come crashing down to earth.

72 HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: PAUL BOOTH

One of the most acclaimed and sought-after tattoo artists in the world, Paul Booth, sits down with HIGH TIMES to talk about how marijuana and the macabre have influenced his life and career.



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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

Boston Freedom Rally; Tokin' with Ben Taylor; Tony Clifton returns; Hemp lotus; Vineyard gardens; Lepp convicted; Dictator of Hemp; Bamboo bike; Big Lebowski ball; Sportsbuzz; Ayahuasca gets a thumbs-up; Sumo scandal; Art goes anti-Drug War; DAWN's flawed stats; James Franco at the Stony Awards; THMQ, Dilated Peoples, Andrew WK, Reviews, Almost Infamous, Vaporetta, Miss HIGH TIMES, Brain Damage Report.

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EDITED BY DANNY DANKO

Pix of the Crop; Cannabis Clinic by Nico Escondido; Pot Food Column, Vaporizer Review by Dan Skye; Gear/Hot Products; Jorge's Rx and January Calendar by Jorge Cervantes; Normlizer, Freedom Fighter and Dr. Mitch.

110 next month

116 pot 40

COVER: DAN SKYE CENTERFOLDS: FREEBIE
CFOLD 1: GOOBERRY CFOLD 2: BUBBLEBERRY

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CHEECH & CHONG

I just recently bought my first issue of HIGH TIMES at the local smoke shop, because it had Cheech & Chong on the cover and I wanted to get it signed by them at their Eugene show. I had no idea that this magazine was anything more than just the typical stoner stereotypes and stoner jokes. I was extremely happy to find out that you guys pack a lot of information into each article, whether it's about building a trellis or picking a seed company.

Anyway, now that I've said that, I would like to make a suggestion for a future article. I'm sure you've heard of the Oregon Cannabis Tax Act (OCTA) and how, if we Oregonians collect 83,000 signatures by the deadline in 2009, we will have the OCTA on the ballot for 2010—and then, if it passes, the wonderful plant known as cannabis could be put into stores similar to those that sell liquor and taxed. (The age limit for purchases would be 21 and over.) I think that an article raising awareness about the OCTA could breed activism in other states to create their own Cannabis Tax Act.

Chad

I'm so happy these legends are reuniting. It will be the funniest thing since hearing about police losing 75 pounds of pot to a stoner kid in a bust gone wrong, hahaha. But seriously, Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong are legends in the dope-smoking world. Anyone who hasn't seen their movies is not a true stoner. I hope to hear the Mexican-American song, maybe Chong finally came up with a new verse.

Pate

TOUGHEST THING OF ALL?

Being a person who loves God's herb is the toughest thing of all. I have a father who was a former grower of a few hundred plants and a mom who dealt hash in Germany. But my whole family is against marijuana and on my back constantly. It feels like they're cutting out my heart and stomping all over it—but when I'm down, your magazine never fails to bring me back up high.

Dominic

DO SEEDS SMELL?

Can seeds be smelled by dogs—and if so, is it illegal to have a marijuana seed that isn't germinated?

Anonymous

Technically, seeds are legal as long as they're steamed (and therefore unable to germinate). It is very difficult for dogs to detect seeds, but if



there are enough of them and they have additional plant residue on them, it isn't inconceivable. However, smuggling seeds in small quantities isn't that difficult.

ALMONDS & BUDBUSTERS

I discovered by accident how to clean a well-used bud-buster without scraping or chemicals: grind up a raw almond and let it sit. The oils in it clean both the metal and plastic with a little finger work.

Anonymous

STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS

My God, what a year it's been. I've had to deal with four deaths recently, all of them good to very close friends of mine, and I'm tired of mourning. Please, people, if one person in your life is having a hard time, be there for them. If you like to drive fast, go to a track; don't use the public roads and freeways if you're going to put yourself or other people's lives at risk. And if you have to drink that nasty crap (alcohol), stay where you are, know your limits and *don't drive*.

Also, please stay away from drugs like meth, cocaine, heroin and pharmacy pills. Smoke some weed if you need to—you never hear about a pot overdose or a stoner causing a huge accident on the freeway without something else being in their system (like alcohol). Before you do anything in life, think of your friends and family and ask how your choices would affect them.

Anonymous

CHEMDOG

I enjoyed your article on Chemdog—I've heard rumors about this strain for a long time. I was just wondering why Chemdog is available only in clone form. Is it because there's no male Chemdog and so it's impossible to produce seeds, or because the people that have the Chemdog are Republican/have-difficulty-sharing-with-others type of people?

Bryan

No need to bash Republicans, many of whom support legalization—and, anyway, your first answer is correct: Like many popular strains today, Chemdog began as a seed found in a bag of great weed. Since there were no male Chemdog plants available to mate with the females, the only pure Chemdog plants today are the clones taken from that original mother.

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THE
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Tony Clifton and his adopted daughter Keely celebrate his comeback with a bong.

TONY CLIFTON RETURNS!

It's been 25 years since the death of Andy Kaufman, the comedian who gleefully made a career out of mind-fucking America. Whether it was his foray into pro wrestling or his insistence on reading *The Great Gatsby* in its entirety to a Carnegie Hall audience, Kaufman ventured boldly where no performer had gone before. His antics did have consequences, though: Many fans sincerely believe that he never died, that it was just another Kaufman gag. And now *everyone* will have some doubts, because lounge singer Tony Clifton has returned for a special "benefit" tour: Tony Clifton and the Katrina-Kiss-My-Ass Orchestra.

For the uninitiated, Tony Clifton was another Kaufman creation—maybe. The comedian allegedly discovered the seedy lounge singer in Vegas and immediately hired him as his opening act. But then Kaufman became Clifton. Then he proved he wasn't Clifton when they both appeared together. Then they both appeared together as Clifton. So everybody's sense of reality was left reeling—which is pretty much what Clifton's act is all about.

Clifton is the anti-Sinatra, an abusive drunk in a tux who harangues the audience, insults his 10-piece band and berates his sexy back-up singers, the Cliftonettes, for not bringing in enough cash. The show ends when everyone in the audience gets fed up and leaves.

By the way, Clifton's newly adopted daughter, Keely, is one of the Cliftonettes. "I'm a booze man," says Clifton. "But Keely has introduced me to the medicinal purposes of *Cannabis sativa*. She says, 'It's good for what ails ya, daddy.'"

Visit tonyclifton.net

LOTUS GOES GREEN

Lotus recently unveiled the Eco Elise technology demonstrator at the British Motor Show. The car features hemp body panels, eco wool and sisal carpets, cleaner manufacturing technologies, water-based paints and locally-sourced components. The entire manufacturing and driving process is fuel efficient and environmentally sustainable.



LEPP'S LAST CHANCE



Eddie Lepp

In 2004, the Feds raided Eddie Lepp's medical mega-garden of 32,000 pot plants in Lake County, CA. Four years later, he has been convicted and now faces from up to 10 years to life in prison. Lepp argued that he was a legal grower under California's Compassionate Use Act of 1996, and that he used cannabis religiously as a Rastafarian and an ordained minister of the Universal Church of Life. He claimed that he was growing the plants for the church's 2,500 documented members. But the charge—possession of more than 1,000 marijuana plants with the intent to distribute—stuck. The judge did allow Lepp to travel to Amsterdam in November to attend the 21st Annual Cannabis Cup prior to filing his appeal in December.

CANADA HARVEST RECORD

Five years ago, the largest cultivation operation in Canadian history was busted when cops raided a former Molson's brewery in Barrie, Ontario that was housing 30,000 plants. But that mark was recently shattered. In September, Ontario Provincial police discovered 40,000 plants in a massive outdoor operation growing in a cornfield in rural eastern Ontario. The plants were hidden between rows of corn and were watered using pipes that were connected to a pond and an above-ground swimming pool. No arrests were made at the time of the raid, but cops reported that there were persons of interest they were checking out. They also groaned about the long weekend of work ahead of them hacking down the plants.



Cops haul away the biggest crop ever.



The city of Boston raises its hands for legalization.

BOSTON BLOWOUT

It was an uncommonly sunny Saturday in September, and the only clouds hovering over the Boston Commons were those rising from the over 10,000 stoners and activists discreetly toking up at the 19th Annual Boston Freedom Rally. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition (MassCann), NORML, HIGH TIMES, and WBCN 104.1 FM radio, the event has become the largest of its kind on the east coast. Enthusiasm at the rally was even higher this year due to the current ballot initiative called Question 2 (reportedly polling at about 70% approval), which would decriminalize possession of up to an ounce of cannabis—prompting cheers of “Yes on 2!” and “No cuffs for cannabis!” throughout the day.

The festivities ran from high noon ‘til six, and featured performances by artists such as Herbal Nation, Gutter Heads, DJ Slim, Fear Nuttin Band and Graveyard BBQ, as well as numerous speakers like Republican congressional candidate John Cunningham, Cures Not Wars founder Dana Beal, Grammas For Ganja, and HT’s own Rick Cusick (who was arrested at last year’s rally), Bobby Black, and former Bostonian Danny Danko, who stirred up some hometown fervor.

“Boston has some of the best weed in the world!” he declared to rousing applause. “Chemdog, Sour Diesel... all that stuff is from Massachusetts.”

Altogether, police issued 78 summonses and made only six arrests. Thankfully, this year Cusick wasn’t one of them.

For more info go to masscann.org. To watch videos from the event, go to hightimes.com/news.



Grapes of wrath are hurled at guerilla pot growers.

TWISTED VINEYARDS

In Washington’s Yakima Valley, over 200,000 marijuana plants were discovered last summer and fall growing alongside the region’s grapes. As usual, law enforcement was quick to blame Mexican cartels for the illegal gardening, even though almost all of the people arrested were Hispanic migrant workers caught on the premises. Officials insist that cartels have tapped into the network of foreign migrant workers who come to the Yakima Valley to farm fruits and vegetables (although it’s certainly possible that the workers were simply looking for an extra source of income). Vineyard owners claim ignorance of the illegal grows. Among the vineyards raided were farms growing grapes under contract with Welch’s Food and the National Grape Cooperative. A Welch’s spokesman stated: “No grapes from the vineyards in question were used in any of our products” and that Welch’s is working with the DEA “to ensure the protection and safety of the vineyards and our consumers.”

Sounds like Welch’s just earned themselves a boycott.



Taylor is a stoner to the core.

THE TAO OF BEN TAYLOR

“Everyone thinks in a musical way,” says Ben Taylor, before adding: “Of course, the music of thought isn’t always my idea of a symphony.”

Well, whatever he’s thinking, we’ll buy it. Taylor has just released his third album, *The Legend of Kung Folk, Part 1 (The Killing Bite)*, and he’s letting out the thoughtful melodies playing in his head in 10 terrific cuts that showcase his wit, his guitar, and the skill of a singer-songwriter who’s comfortable in his own skin.

Taylor is quick to acknowledge his musical roots. He’s the son of James Taylor and Carly Simon, and he cites their influence matter-of-factly: “They’re my parents. Not only are they the authors of some of my favorite songs, they are my archetypal example for what humans are like. They are close friends and clever allies.”

But the outdoors and the rhythms of the earth have also had a profound effect on his music. Water, too: “It’s the way it finds its level and flows,” he says. “I’ve made my life on a little island so that I could be surrounded by it all the time. I write all these aquatic, dreamy, oceanic songs.”

Terrific background music for toking up, by the way. And Taylor has some sharp insights about that: “There’s a fine line between a respectful, productive, medicinal experience on the one hand, and a dependency on an alchemical escape mechanism on the other. Crossing back and forth over that line has helped me to develop character, humility and a pretty decent sense of humor. It’s been both harmful and helpful to me in many ways with regard to the balance of ambition and humor. Also, I think the value of learning to lose control of one’s delusions of consciousness can’t be overlooked

“I suppose running completely clean, with nothing but the chemicals our bodies manufacture on their own, is the ideal,” he adds. “But it’s not realistic for everyone. So long as people need escape from time to time, I think MJ is an important alternative to alcohol, which makes most folks I know—myself included—decidedly less sharp and more aggressive.”



Ride a mean green machine!

ECO WHEELS

If there were an award for the bicycle with the smallest carbon footprint (i.e., the least amount of greenhouse gases emitted during its production), the Bamboo Bike by Calfee Design would ride away with the prize. Its frame is fashioned from bamboo that has been smoked and heat-treated to prevent splitting; the lugs are made of hemp fiber for an all-natural look; and the chain stays are available in carbon fiber for extra stiffness in the drive train. Calfee's Bamboo Bikes have taken top prizes—Best Road Bike and Best Off-Road Bike, plus the People's Choice Award—at the North American Handmade Bicycle Show. And they're built to last—each Bamboo Bike comes with a 10-year warranty.

Visit calfeedesign.com.



Castro resurfaces!

THE DICTATOR OF HEMP

Why has Fidel Castro dropped out of sight? Turns out he's now managing a clothing line called Hemp Hoodlamb, a stylishly laid-back assortment of men's and women's clothing for all seasons, designed with hemp and other natural fibers and fashioned for stoners on the go.

Actually, the dude in the photo isn't the former maximum leader of Cuba (and that ain't no cigar in his hand, either). It's Adam from THSeeds, who oversees the Hoodlamb division of the company. Hemp Hoodlamb stonerwear has become a huge hit worldwide. The winter clothes in particular are warm and rugged, especially suited to the raw winters in Amsterdam, where THSeeds has its headquarters. If you attend the Cannabis Cup this year, be sure to check out the THSeeds display booth and buy some duds. Stay toasty while getting toasted. Visit hoodlamb.com or thseeds.com.

'MIND IF I DO A JAY?'

A box-office disappointment when it first hit the theaters, *The Big Lebowski*, the Coen Brothers' twisted take on classic Hollywood detective yarns, follows the exploits of the Dude, an unemployed, aging '60s radical who spends his days stoned and bowling until a case of mistaken identity puts him back on the path of adventure.

The Dude may not have lasted long on the big screen, but couchlocked fans soon caught up once *The Big Lebowski* hit video, and today the cult has grown so large that it supports an international series of Lebowski Fests that draw thousands of "achievers" to revel in White Russians, doobies, Creedence, bowling and all things Lebowski.

Now, for the first time, *The Big Lebowski: 10th Anniversary Edition* brings it all back home, including a second DVD packed with "far-out" bonus features examining the making of the movie, the production of the Dude's psychedelic dream sequences, and the behind-the-scenes story of the Lebowski Fest. For even more Dude, check out the HIGH TIMES interview with Jeff Dowd, the Coens' real-life inspiration: hightimes.com/lebowski/.



Go one take "over the line!" with a brand-new *Big Lebowski* box set.

this month in SPORTSBUZZ

WAIVING THEIR JOHNSON

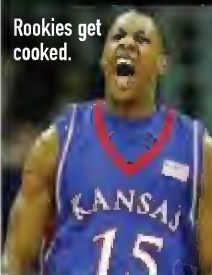
The Indianapolis Colts waived second-year defensive lineman Ed Johnson after he was busted for possession in September. Johnson had been speeding north of Indianapolis when he was stopped. Cops smelled weed, and drug-sniffing dogs found his stash. Johnson apparently was in violation of Coach Tony Dungy's code of behavior. Bill Polian, the team prez, told reporters that the team had "no choice."



Lineman gets flattened.

Pretty rough justice for misdemeanor possession and a speeding ticket.

Rookies get cooked.



OFFENSIVE FOULS

In September, NBA rookies Mario Chalmers and Darrell Arthur were each fined 20 grand after being discovered by security with women and—maybe—weed. It all happened in a room at a

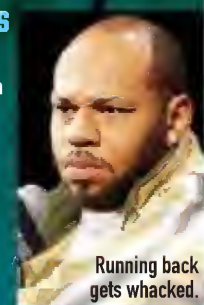
resort in Rye Brook, NY, where the league's annual transition symposium for rookies was taking place. Apparently, entertaining women is a big no-no at the event, where first-year players learn about life in the major leagues, but security also reported the smell of weed. Both players denied taking up: According to Chalmers, "Everyone who knows me knows I am a good person, and I pride myself on doing the right thing," while Arthur insisted, "I didn't have anything to do with marijuana or anything like that ... I'm not a bad kid or anything."

We harbor the suspicion that the rookies may have fibbed to lessen the impact on their young careers. But even if they didn't, their statements are still moronic.

In addition to the fine, both players automatically flunked the symposium and must re-attend next year. Maybe they should attend a symposium on honest pot smoking, too.

UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS

In February, New England Patriots running back Kevin Faulk was busted for possession after cops found him with blunts at a Lil Wayne concert in Lafayette, LA. Faulk pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges earlier this year, but the NFL still suspended him for the season opener and fined him the equivalent of a two-game check, tens of thousands of dollars ... all for a blunt!



Running back gets whacked.

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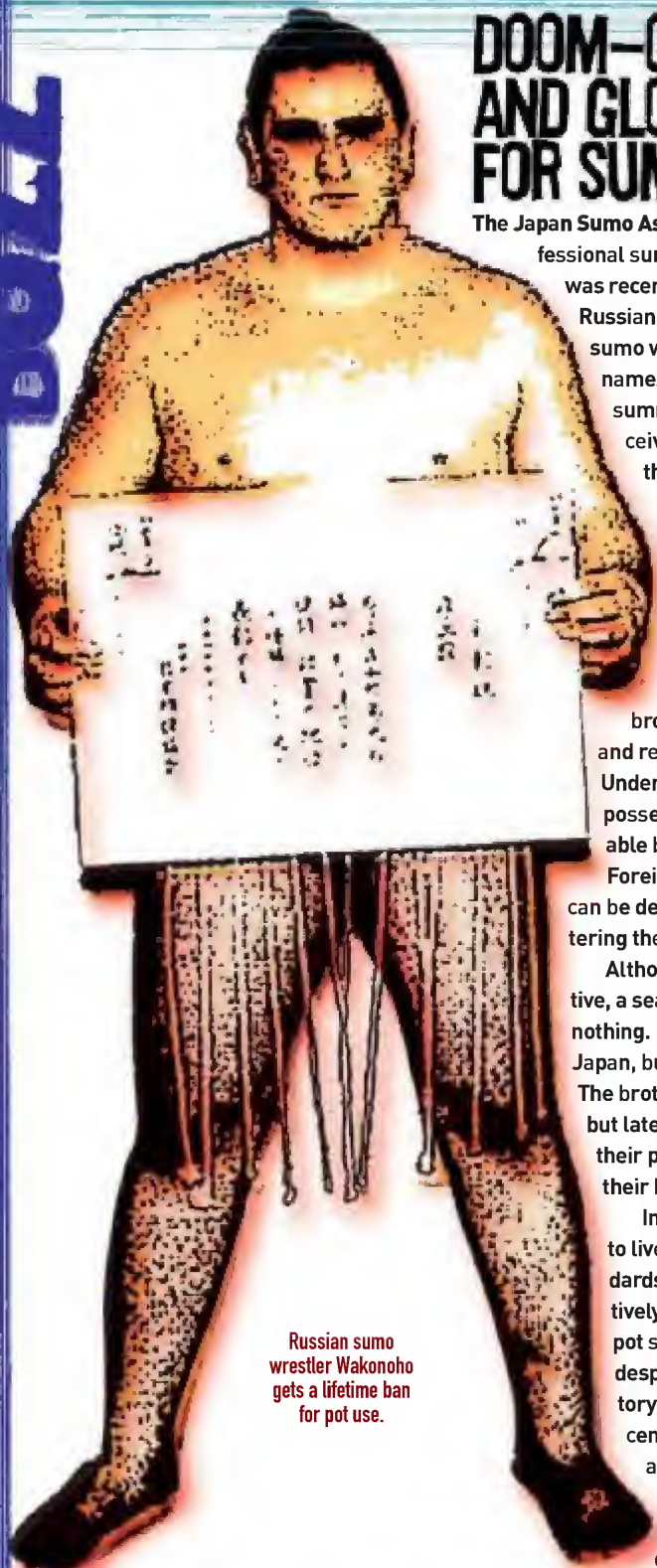
DOOM-O AND GLOOM-O FOR SUMO

The Japan Sumo Association, which oversees professional sumo wrestling in the country, was recently rocked by scandal. The Russian sumo wrestler Wakanoho (all sumo wrestlers take on professional names) was busted in Japan last summer for pot possession and received a lifetime expulsion from the JSA, the first in the association's long history.

It was front-page news in Japan, and the JSA, mortified, decided to purge itself of the shame by piss-testing all of its wrestlers. Two more Russians tested positive, the brothers Roho and Hakurozan, and received lifetime bans as well. Under Japan's Cannabis Control Law, possession of marijuana is punishable by up to five years in prison. Foreigners convicted of drug crimes can be deported and banned from re-entering the country for life.

Although the brothers tested positive, a search of their rooms turned up nothing. Possession may be a crime in Japan, but having it in your system isn't. The brothers at first denied smoking, but later it was revealed they did admit their pot use to the JSA. It's doubtful their ban will be lifted.

In sumo, wrestlers are expected to live up to the sport's exalted standards of decorum and dignity, collectively known as *hinkaku*. Obviously, pot smoking doesn't make the cut, despite Japan's long hempen history: The plant was cultivated for centuries in the country (as early as 300 BC), appears frequently in ancient artwork, and played an active role in Shinto religious celebrations.



Russian sumo wrestler Wakanoho gets a lifetime ban for pot use.

THE D.A.W.N. OF PROPAGANDA

The little-known but dodgy government public-health "surveillance system" dubbed the Drug Abuse Warning Network, or DAWN, monitors drug-related visits to hospital emergency departments (EDs) and drug-related deaths investigated by medical examiners and coroners. Its purported purpose is to "track the impact of drug use, misuse and abuse in the US." Introduced in 1994, DAWN serves primarily as a fount of propaganda distorting the reality of alcohol abuse in the US and demonizing cannabis instead. DAWN is also a public-relations tool used for the purpose of obtaining grant money to address vague "local drug-related problems."

DAWN claims to "cover all types of drug-related ED visits and all types of drugs," declaring that "there are only a few exceptions to the DAWN case criteria" for documenting drug-related mortalities. But, incredibly, one of DAWN's "exceptions" are all ED visits when *alcohol is the only substance involved and the patient is 21 and over*. This means that under the DAWN system, a 22-year old male who drinks a couple six-packs of beer and gets into an auto accident that causes critical injury or death *isn't* included in their statistics—but the same person who takes a joint in addition to his dozen beers *does* get included in



Ethan Nadelman, George Soros, Carl L. Hart and Alex Grey.



THE ART OF ALLIANCE

In the nation with the highest incarceration rate in the world, famous artists and their patrons have joined the fight for justice. In September, the Drug Policy Alliance hosted "re:FORM," an auction and cocktail party held in New York City, where noted artists like Fred Tomaselli, Alex Grey and Andres Serrano donated work in order to benefit the DPA and its mission of promoting alternatives to the War on Drugs. DPA executive director Ethan Nadelmann was on hand, as well as the activist/philanthropist George Soros, whose financial contributions to the drug-law reform movement are legion.—Danny Danko
Visit drugpolicy.org or 15yearstolife.com.

SPIRIT WORLD GETS A GOVERNMENT OKAY

Ayahuasca, the woody jungle vine brewed as a ceremonial "tea" by at least 72 tribes of the Amazon region, has long been considered both medicinal and magical, with mystic healing properties. The government of Peru recently issued a statement acknowledging ayahuasca's spiritual value, which reads, in part: "The effects produced by its consumption are equivalent to entering the secrets of the spiritual world."

The statement was signed by the director of the National Institute of Culture and published in *El Peruano*, the official daily of the country.

Now imagine the US government issuing a similar endorsement acknowledging the healing properties of cannabis.



their stats (as part of the "alcohol with other drugs" category created by DAWN), thereby erroneously implicating marijuana in the process.

DAWN claims that pot-related ED visits among 21- to 24-year-olds are 230 per 100,000 people in the population, while alcohol—again, only in combo with other drugs—is 261 per 100,000. But are we really expected to believe there are only 31 more ED visits involving alcohol than pot among young adults of that age? And what about the number of ED visits per year involving alcohol alone—especially given that alcohol is classified

as a drug by agencies like the National Institute on Drug Abuse?

Dr. Cheryl Cherpitel of the Alcohol Research Group confirms DAWN's lack of credibility. Studies to which she has contributed have consistently shown that injured ED patients have a higher blood-alcohol content than control groups of uninjured people.

For DAWN to have legitimacy, it must treat its cannabis-related ED stats honestly by including *all* alcohol-related ED visits and deaths, regardless of age. According to Dr. Cherpitel: "We have issues with how the DAWN data is represented. We see the need for something with mandatory requirements that addresses alcohol in the ED environment."—Mark Miller

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HIGH TIMES
GEAR OF THE YEAR
AWARD
WINNERS

THE MOTHERSHIP



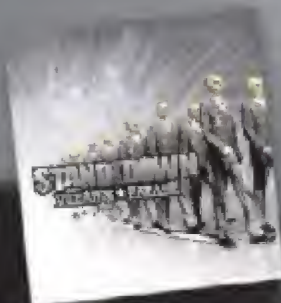
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THE DRYER



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BCNL SUPPORTING VANCOUVER BAND **STAND DOWN**

As BC Northern Lights continues to be recognized as the industry leader in indoor gardens, they're proud to recognize two of their star employees as the leading outfit for the band Stand Down. The Vancouver based band has just released their first full length album and have since been leaving a trail blaze of smoke behind them. While on a mission to dominate the metal scene, guitarist (Justin Lacey) and vocalist (Ken Goode) dispense the same amount of energy and passion into building BCNL's indoor gardens as they do while they're onstage. Given their volcanic rapture since the release of "Villains Parade", BC Northern Lights is excited to be a part of Stand Down's success. Buy the album on iTunes Mutherfucker!

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STONER OF THE YEAR: JAMES FRANCO

James Franco has been on my personal radar ever since I first took notice of him in the late '90s, when the TV cult classic *Freaks and Geeks* was still on the air. After the show got canceled, I stored his good looks and squinty eyes away in the "hottie" sector of my brain for later use. So I was pleasantly surprised to see him a few years later, looking all clean-cut and scrump-didly-umptious, playing Harry Osborn—preppy son to Willem Dafoe's evil Green Goblin—in *Spider-Man*. As if to ensure my Franco fix was sated, the producers went on to cast him in both *Spider-Man* sequels, eventually as the villain himself. (Note: In No. 3, he *takes off his shirt!*) But after Spider-Mania finally wore us down, I lost track of him again. Though his memory was still tucked away in my trusty cerebral archives, it wasn't in active use.

It wasn't until early 2008, while I was smoking a joint and hiding from the rain under a bus stop, that my Franco File was unlocked once more. A billboard of his face was staring out at me from beneath my shelter, and something about it looked awfully familiar—like there was something there I could connect with. It turned out to be his eyes ... his red, watery eyes. And then it hit me: "Oh my lord, he's high! He's gorgeous *and* he's high. There is a Weed God after all!"

It was a poster for the film we've since come to know and love so well: *Pineapple Express*, which has gone on to become the top-grossing stoner movie of all time, raking in \$23.2 million in its first weekend alone and grossing over \$100 million total. Stoners from around the world flocked to the theaters, ordered the extra-extra-large popcorn, and watched with bleary-eyed delight as Franco—playing lovable, drug-dealing nebbish Saul Silver—manages to stick his foot through the windshield of a car *while* he's driving it.

Not to be outdone by a mere fictional character, James and co-star Seth Rogen (the HIGH TIMES 2007 Stoner of the Year) produced a bag of marijuana onstage at the 2008 MTV Movie Awards, all the while explaining that sometimes what you see on-screen is indeed the real deal. Then they lit a joint and enjoyed a mutual toke. Though Franco and Rogen remain mum on whether the weed was a stage prop, members of the audience report that it looked like pot and *smelled* like pot ... so you can draw your own conclusions.



'Some stoner movies—yes, they're smoking weed. And some movies you gotta get high for.'

This stellar record of stony achievement makes James Franco a natural to follow in the footsteps of folks like Snoop Dogg, Bill Murray and his *Pineapple* co-star Seth Rogen as our latest Stoner of the Year. At the Eighth Annual Stony Awards, held on Sept. 27, 2008, at the Malibu Inn in Malibu, CA, Franco was in excellent spirits. Smiling his trademark squinty-eyed smile, he explained: "Some stoner movies—yes, *they're* smoking weed. And some movies *you* gotta get high for. I'm really proud of this movie: It's the first movie that really examines the relationship between a guy and his dealer. It's almost like a *love story* between a guy and his dealer. I felt like we were charting new ground." As for the notion of doing a *Pineapple* sequel, Franco had encouraging words: "Everybody certainly wants to—and I think Seth drunkenly sold the idea at the wrap party."

When it comes to enjoying his weed, though, it's not all acting with Franco. He recalled that the first time he got high, "I was 13 or 14. I was in eighth grade and smoked out of an apple in my friend's backyard—then I went to an eighth-grade dance and had a pretty good time." (Note: I can't remember the last time I wanted to be an apple so badly.)

And there's a lot more to his acting résumé than cult TV shows and blockbuster Hollywood hits. In 2001, he played James Dean in a made-for-TV movie about the iconic film star. It was this role that drew the attention of a certain Robert De Niro, who would soon star with Franco in the drama *City by the Sea*. And looking to the future, Franco seems poised to become a bona fide countercultural superstar. He recently co-starred with Sean Penn in Gus Van Sant's biopic *Milk* (released in December 2008), about the life and times of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man elected to public office in California, only to be murdered by an embittered political rival. Franco will also star in the upcoming *Howl!*, in which he plays the legendary Beat poet Allen Ginsberg; the film centers on the obscenity trial that Ginsberg faced after publishing his incendiary poem.

Bottom line: James Franco's got it goin' on—all over the place. Lord knows, if I had my way, we'd get him down to Jamaica and crown him our first-ever *Mister* HIGH TIMES before the year is up. So it's not only with honor and respect for his current achievements, but also in anticipation of the good things to come, that we're more than pleased to name him our 2008 Stoner of the Year. —Vaporella

James Franco accepts his Stony Award from *Pineapple Express* costar Gary Cole.



STONY AWARD WINNERS

BEST COMEDY
Pineapple Express

BEST DRAMA
The Wackness

BEST DOCUMENTARY
SuperHigh Me

BEST TV SPECIAL
Attack of The Show: 420 Special (G4)

BEST WEB VIDEO
Stonervention
(Tim Saccardo of UCB)

STONER OF THE YEAR
James Franco
(*Pineapple Express*)

STONETTE OF THE YEAR
Danneel Harris
(Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay)



Nichole Hiltz of *The Trailer Park Boys: The Movie* and Paul Ben-Victor of *Entourage*.

G4TV's Stony winner for Best TV Special. Olivia Munn.



The Big Lebowski himself, Jeff "The Dude" Dowd.



Purple Foam's (l to r) Liam McMullan and Izzy Gold



Gary Cole and wife Teddi.



Saturday Night Live alum Finesse Mitchell.



Half Baked Guillermo Diaz. "Yo, I'm Cuban, B."



(From right to left) American Drug War's Kevin Booth, Trei Booth, T. Rogers.

Californication and The Nanny alumni. Madeline Zima.



Garden Party's Ross Patterson



Steve Lemme and Kevin Heffernan of stoner favorite, Super Troopers.

Writers of the Harold and Kumar films, Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg, accepted Stonette of the Year for Danneel Harris



Daniel Franzese of Mean Girls.

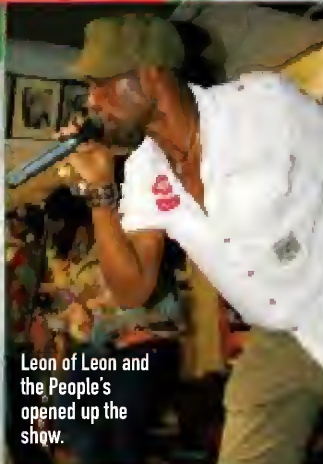


Greg Pitts of Office Space shows us his "O" face.



The winning cast of Stonvention.

Leon of Leon and the People's opened up the show.



THMQ

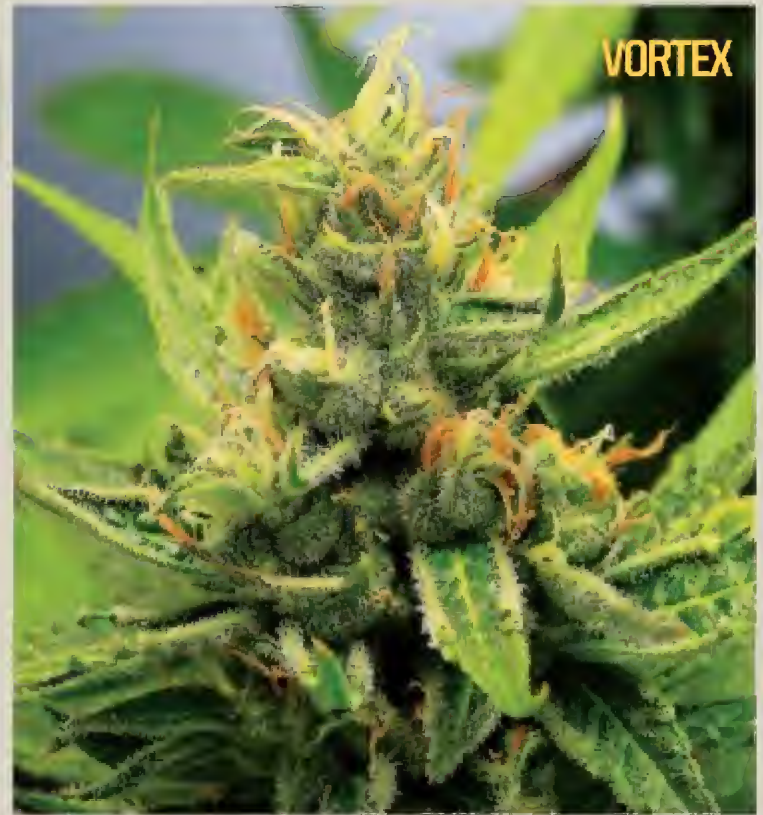
Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at hightimes.com.

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$394** (last month: \$358; YTD: \$394)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$452** (\$465, \$452)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$263** (\$262, \$263)

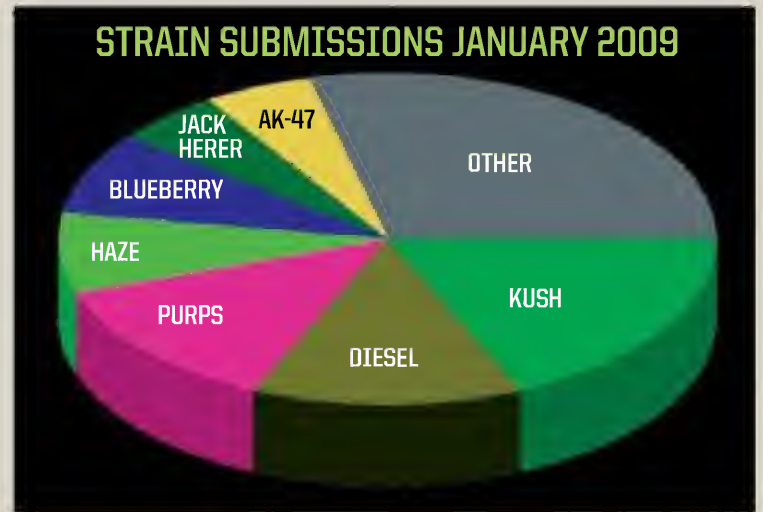
CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$93** (\$88, \$93)



MARKET ANALYSIS

New year, same result: Kush is once again the most submitted strain of the month, beating out Diesel and Purps by substantial margins. After a rebound in December, the Kind Index began 2009 by dropping again, though not significantly. Meanwhile, the US Price Index shot up \$36, to a 14-month high of \$394. The Mids and Schwag indices essentially held steady. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$436), Diesel (\$504), Purps (\$423), Haze (\$480) and Blueberry (\$353).

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information (including location and price by the ounce) to thmq@hightimes.com.



Morning Snow Haze,
Bubba Snow - \$580, \$590
Madera, CALIFORNIA
"It has taken me six years of good strain choice and heavy yield to create these. THC ranges from 20% to 23%. Fruity pine scent with a very strong, pungent, citrusy odor."

Purple Haze - \$500
Valdosta, GEORGIA
"It's been rough down here. Things were a lot more free-flowing a month or so ago, but then the damned cops rolled on a lot of people. Either way, we've still been able to stay high. Crazy prices, especially when you look at California last month"

NYC Diesel - \$450
Boston, MASSACHUSETTS
"The sweet and stinky. Fat buds coupled with dark green and slightly purple-colored undertones. A deep high that never fails to put you in the New York groove, then right back on the couch."

Jack Herer - \$400
Pennington, NEW JERSEY
"Very close to the original Super Silver Haze—a sweet smell and strong stone."

Sensi Star - \$450
Coplay, PENNSYLVANIA
"I'm about two miles outside of Allentown. Recently, 'A-town Brown' was submitted and I felt disgusted, so I decided to let you know what I've been smoking!"

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ARIZONA	Phoenix	Alaskan Thunderfuck	\$450
CALIFORNIA	Long Beach Madera	Sensi Star	\$420
		Morning Snow Haze	\$580
		Bubba Snow	\$590
COLORADO	Denver	Northern Lights	\$450
FLORIDA	Holiday	Mids	\$170
GEORGIA	Valdosta	Kind	\$370
		Purple Haze	\$500
INDIANA	Bloomington	Super Skunk	\$325
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Mids	\$110
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	NYC Diesel	\$450
		Jack Herer	\$400
MISSISSIPPI	Calhoun City	Purple Kush	\$500
MISSOURI	Joplin	Heavy Duty Fruity	\$400
NEW JERSEY	Manalapan Pennington	Super Diesel	\$600
		Jack Herer	\$400
NEW MEXICO	Las Cruces	Trainwreck	\$400
NEW YORK	Brooklyn Long Island Queens	Sour Diesel	\$500
		OG Kush	\$575
		Strawberry Goo	\$450
NORTH CAROLINA	Asheville	Blue Rhino	\$360
		Super Silver Haze	\$360
	Greensboro	OG Kush	\$480
		Cherry Bomb	\$420
		Master Kush	\$400
		Schwag	\$100
Greenville Kenly	Stellaberry	\$360	
OREGON	Coos Bay	Shishkaberry	\$250
		Blueberry	\$250
		OG Kush	\$250
		G-13	\$250
		Romulan	\$250
PENNSYLVANIA	Coplay	Martian Mean Green	\$400
		AK-47	\$450
		Sensi Star	\$450
		Sour Diesel Purps	\$450
		Bubba Kush	\$425
		Jack Herer	\$420
SOUTH CAROLINA	Sumter	Blueberry White Rhino	\$450 \$450
TEXAS	Austin	Sweet Island Skunk	\$450
VIRGINIA	Fredericksburg	AK-47	\$450
WISCONSIN	Beloit	Schwag	\$70
		Kind	\$315

INTERNATIONAL (prices in Canadian dollars, British pounds or euros)

CANADA			
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MAGAZINE



KUSHING FORWARD

Dilated Peoples and Aceyalone speak to that segment of the hip-hop audience looking for more than gunplay and glitz. Having originated in Los Angeles in the early '90s and come up in the wake of rap's first wave, the artists are now trying to remain relevant in a field where time is measured in dog years, and longevity is still relatively unheard of. **By Chris Parker**

For Dilated Peoples, last summer's tour was a chance to regroup. After completing a four-album deal with Capitol with the release of 2006's *20/20*, they celebrated with a DVD documentary, *The Release Party*, and immediately set about releasing solo albums. When Evidence took last year's *The Weatherman* in for mastering, engineer Tom Coyne kidded him that the solo album marked "the beginning of the end of your career." But Evidence speaks of it as necessity, revealing that he felt cramped creatively.

"To be honest, taking a year away from Dilated was good, because it's made me appreciate it more. I was tired of it when I was ready to do my solo album," he admits. "I felt like for a while I pushed and hit a ceiling and couldn't get farther. Then, the last year and a half, I felt like I broke through."

While he's concerned that, without Capitol behind them, "we're not guaranteed a bunch of money every year," Evidence sees himself in a better place creatively. "It makes you much less of a lazy artist," he says. "You have to get out and find out who your fans are and nurture that relationship."

Fellow Dilated Peoples MC Rakaa describes the situation with Capitol like this: "We were making their job easier, and they weren't making ours any easier, yet we were giving up 80 percent of the money just to play." Rakaa's prepping his own solo joint, *Crown of Thorns*, for release in the last quarter of 2008. It features contributions not only from Evidence and fellow bandmate DJ Babu, but also from the group's shadow member, Evidence's childhood friend and producer Alchemist, as well as NYC's Da Beatminerz. Mostly, it promises a return to the halcyon days of hip-hop, when the format wasn't so set in stone.



starting over, because people know me so much as a DJ and have a preconceived notion of what my sound would be.”

Of course, Babu’s being modest with the “behind-the-scenes” stuff; he’s no fluffer. His turntable skills are well remarked, and he’s a member of Orange County’s World Famous Beat Junkies. The Filipino-American Navy brat from Huntington Beach, CA, saw his career take off when he placed as a top finisher in a series of DJ battles, winding up in the DMC US Finals in ’95. “I went from being local to, literally nine months later, I was arguably top 10 in the world,” he recalls, “rubbing shoulders with all these guys I idolized and dreamed of.”

Babu was subsequently hired by the Fat Beats record store in LA, where he’d see Evidence and Rakaa around. He cut some tracks for them, but didn’t become a full-time Dilated Peoples member until their 2000 Capitol debut, *The Platform*.

Evidence and Rakaa’s partnership goes back even further, to the early ’90s. At the time, Evidence was living in Venice next door to QDIII, a.k.a. Quincy Delight Jones III, son of the famous musician/producer. The two met for the first time at the “motor yard,” a graffiti yard at the corner of

Motor Avenue and National

Boulevard, just off the Rosa Parks Freeway.

“Coming into hip-hop through graffiti, that was the truth of hip-hop culture,” explains Rakaa, “because as graffiti artists, the last thing we were concerned about was what we looked like—we wanted our work to speak for itself. So we would finally get together at a meeting, and you would have cats with mohawks sitting with Crips and Bloods, cholos, Rastas and skaters, and you’d realize: We’re all from the same crew.”

Evidence—whose circle growing up included Nicole Richie, actor/model Ethan Browne, child actress/Rilo Kiley singer Jenny Lewis, and *Celebrity Rehab* cast member/Crazy Town singer Seth Binzer—eventually found himself at odds with the law over his graffiti work and moved on to rhyming. He started working with Alchemist, with QDIII producing, but a beef with Jones led

“I’m trying to do some unique things and bring in different flavors and elements of music that aren’t necessarily part of hip-hop,” says Rakaa. He cites the Beastie Boys as an inspiration: “They’re like, ‘We love hip-hop, but we also love ska, rock, reggae and jazz.’...They weren’t afraid to bring that together, and that’s what I want to do, is bring that element—not just a hot producer sampling James Brown records.”

Even DJ Babu has a new disc in the works, which he describes as a “solo album disguised as a mixtape.”

“I’m not trying to put myself out there as an artist, because I don’t rap,” Babu says. “I’m more a behind-the-scenes-artist. I really would like this album to be my calling card. It’s almost like

Evidence to partner up instead with Rakaa, whom he’d rediscovered at an open-mic session at a Melrose Avenue hip-hop shop. (Meanwhile, Jones starting producing for Whooliganz, the new rap duo that Alchemist formed with Scott Caan.)

Around the same time that Dilated Peoples were getting together, Aceyalone and his crew, Freestyle Fellowship, were rocking an open-mic workshop in South Central at the Good Life Café. Dubbed “Project Blowed,” the workshop has recently celebrated its 14th anniversary in a new location in Leimart Park. Like “Project Blowed,” Aceyalone hasn’t given an inch to the ravages of time: His rhyme and style remain sharp, and his last two albums—2006’s *Magnificent City*, with DJ RJD2, and last year’s dancehall-and-reggae-infused *Lightning Strikes*—show an artist at the top of his game. And he’s just finished a new album—*The Lonely Ones*, with DJ Bionik from *Lightning Strikes*—which explores swing, doo-wop, classic soul and funk. He also foresees another Freestyle Fellowship album sometime in 2009.

‘TAKE IT FROM ME, SOMEONE WHO FREQUENTS AMSTERDAM—WE’RE KILLING THEM. CALIFORNIA WEED IS STOMPING OUT THE WORLD RIGHT NOW,’ DECLARES DJ BABU.

“I’m just taking my influences, working with them, recharging them and putting them back into the music I love,” says Aceyalone. “I don’t want to get too lost in that, and get too experimental where I lose everybody—but enough to still break some ground.”

Not surprisingly, the one thing that all five of these diverse artists agree on is the power of the Cali Kush.

“Offer regular chronic or old *indica*, people are like ‘eh,’” says Aceyalone. “Everyone wants the Kush. It’s easy to find—if you don’t have a card, someone you know does,” he adds, referring to California’s medical-marijuana card.

“Take it from me, someone who frequents Amsterdam—we’re killing them. California weed is stomping out the world right now,” declares DJ Babu. “It’s so good, it’ll have you doing circles. You’ll keep forgetting what you do after every bongload and return to the bong.”

Evidence reports that dancehall rapper Mad Lion has even partnered up on some med-pot dispensaries. “They are getting so rich!” he jokes. “I’m like, ‘Al, we should just do this for a while.’”

But even when they’re far from the green shores of Cali, they’re immediately transported back whenever the weed’s around. “No matter where I am in the world, as soon as I’m linked with the guy who has the tree and we roll up one,” says Rakaa, “I feel like I’m at home.” ✪



PARTY ANIMAL

It's time to party!

Andrew W.K. is something of a paradox. With hedonistic anthems like “Party ‘Til You Puke” and “Long Live the Party,” one might assume that this enigmatic vocalist and pop-culture provocateur was a hard-drinkin’, drug-takin’ party animal. But contrary to his wild-rock-star image, he’s actually a reserved, thoughtful, soft-spoken guy who almost never indulges in alcohol or drugs. The one notable exception? He loves smoking weed. By Bobby Black

Partying seems to be the dominant topic in your music. For the record, exactly how hard do you party?

Actually, as far as partying goes, my experience has been relatively limited—that is, if “partying” is to be defined by intoxication or drug use. I didn’t do any drugs or drink until I was 21. When I first got drunk, I was so hyper-aware after all those years of celibacy that that overly self-conscious attitude made me afraid to go crazy—or happier to stay on the verge of some intense experience rather than going all the way there. So I never got crazy drunk or did a lot of drugs—I was just into trying things.

What about marijuana?

I was very against it for a long time. In high school and middle school, we had a lot of training about drugs, and I made judgments about my identity and the world around me based on that. I tried smoking marijuana for the first time when I was about 22 and got a serious headache and felt depressed. I think the abstract sensation of getting high was so new and such an anomaly that I couldn’t place any reference on it, and it freaked me out. But a couple of years later, I got high again and was able to enjoy it.

You grew up in Ann Arbor—you must have been aware of the annual Hash Bash. As a straight kid, what did you think about it?

I was very freaked out by it, but equally fascinated. There’s this amazing, seemingly contradictory quality to drug users: Despite the generalizations of them, they project an image of bravery. They’re trying things that other people are afraid to try. I had friends that I admired who were really into drugs, and it seemed like they’d taken these crazy risks—done things that had been described to me as being so intense and bad that I couldn’t even imagine doing them. I don’t know if marijuana falls into that category, but to someone like me, it seemed that way. Thinking back now, I’m very thankful I waited as long as I did.

But you smoke pot now, right?

Yeah. Lots. More and more over the years since first trying it. I get high pretty much every day.

Does it help you creatively?

That’s a very difficult question, because I don’t have any insight into what it does as an isolated entity. It’s not *apart* from me, so it’s hard for me to examine it objectively as a tool. I’m still new when it comes to drug experiences, but it seems like at some point, the feeling

‘There’s this amazing, seemingly contradictory quality to drug users: Despite the generalizations of them, they project an image of bravery. They’re trying things that other people are afraid to try.’

becomes recognizable—not lessening in intensity, but recognizable in a way that gives you a perspective on it, and you can essentially operate as you would otherwise with the sensation in your mind. But to say that it’s *allowing* you to do certain things you otherwise couldn’t—that’s debatable. Personally, I’ve found that whatever you can do in one state of mind, you can do in another.

But you do find altered states of consciousness valuable in some way?

It’s funny—I was thinking before coming here about a conversation I had with the great musician, producer and songwriter Jim Steinman. He told me someone had asked him once in an interview whether he thought drugs should be legalized, and he said, “I think they should be required!” That really struck a chord with me, because being able to radically alter your modes of perception and have other perspectives is just as valid a version of reality as another. There are many ways to alter perception (including chemical ones), and each has its own integrity. At the end of the day, it’s a matter of personal choices. And they’re not definitive—they’re choices you make perpetually, every day.

Have you experimented with psychedelics as well?

Very little. Again, I never really got into other drugs or drinking much—I just really like marijuana a lot.

You produced Lee “Scratch” Perry’s latest album, *Repentance*. What was it like working with a reggae icon?

I met Mr. Perry in Austin about two years ago and was just blown away by his vibe. Sometimes you get a real clear connection with someone, and it feels like your whole life was leading up to meeting them.

Admittedly, my experience with reggae is very limited—but my understanding and experience with love and good feelings has been extensive, so I applied all the good vibes I could muster to the album. As long as people can hear Lee’s voice, the album will be great, because his voice carries his imagination and his imagination is God. Working with Lee—even just being in his presence—has been one the great honors and pleasures of my life. 🌱



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PATIENTS AND POTHEADS

Dying to Get High

Wendy Chapkis and Richard J. Webb
(NYU Press)



Widely considered the “gold standard” of the med-pot movement, the Wo/Men’s Alliance for Medical Marijuana, a co-op that distributes free cannabis to seriously ill people, is the central focus of *Dying to Get High*, a new book examining medical marijuana in America. The activist founders of WAMM, Mike and Valerie Corral, have tirelessly challenged the federal prohibition on cannabis as medicine. WAMM’s members are people stricken with AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and numerous other ailments, but lawmakers in Washington continue to insist that these folks are simply “potheads scamming the system.”

Against the backdrop of WAMM’s struggles and successes, authors Wendy Chapkis and Richard J. Webb provide a thorough look at the history of cannabis and medicine in America, placing the current controversy in its appropriate context. Chapters examining scientific research and legal developments are packed with information, and the book also features interviews with patients, caregivers, physicians, police and lawmakers, putting a human face on the arguments in favor of truly legal medicinal pot.

Opening with a history of medicine in the US, *Dying to Get High* demonstrates how the movement to professionalize the healing arts—making medicine the exclusive domain of licensed doctors—alienated patients from participating in their own health care, as well as how the

Many WAMM patients find garden work to be therapeutic.



pharmaceutical industry worked to suppress competition from commonly available botanical herbs. The authors also provide a compelling look inside WAMM itself, from the early days of the patients’ cooperative to the dramatic DEA raid on its garden in 2002. The health risks associated with smoking are discussed as well, along with the alternative delivery systems—such as edibles, tinctures and salves—that have been developed at the grass-roots level by WAMM’s own patients. As the book points out, making medicine is an empowering practice for those suffering

from illness, and the therapeutic value of gardening is another example of the way that WAMM blends community with treatment for the benefit of the organization as well as its individual members.

Dying to Get High addresses many important questions and contradictions in government policy, effectively rebutting official propaganda with common sense, scientific facts and the anecdotal evidence recorded by WAMM patients. Compassionate readers will be moved by the stories of suffering, and the book is so well-written and researched that even the most hard-hearted will be persuaded that the Feds’ policies against the medicinal use of cannabis need to change now. —Elise McDonough

ANCESTORS

Neptune With Fire
(North Atlantic Sound)

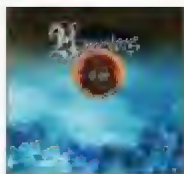


Ancestors’ *Neptune With Fire* should satiate both the traditional stoner-metal fan and those seeking a more expansive approach to this often self-limiting subgenre. After all, how many weed-metal bands have both an organist (J. Christopher Watkins) and a member providing “textual incarnations and noise” (Chico Foley)?

Neptune is a concept album consisting of two songs—both elongated epics—that posit an archetypal hero’s sojourn through a cycle of violence, wanton celebration, remorse and, finally, transcendent revelation. On display here is Ancestors’ unique songwriting technique of launching from the doom-metal rhythm platforms of bassist Nick Long and drummer Brandon Pierce to higher forms of improvisation.

Opener “Orcus’ Avarice” unfastens with a classic drone/Sabbath intro, the vocals appropriately guttural and sinister, juxtaposed with melodic leads from guitarist Justin Maranga. The ’70s stylings give way to spaced-out strumming that melds with a bluesy psychedelic gallop. Before it all gets too insubstantial, the tempo speeds up to a proggy excursion that traverses into territory befitting the theme of festivity.

The title track, “Neptune With Fire,” resumes the drawn-out aggression and endless guitar leads, but this time with more diverse vocals that call to mind Mike Muir or Henry Rollins. A contemplative interlude follows as “Neptune” subtly ascends to operatic heights, complete with Wagnerian Valkyrie wailing that never dips into awkward pretension, befitting the album’s “revelation” leitmotif. —Mark Miller



STEPHEN DAVIS

Watch You Bleed
(Gotham)



Penned by Stephen Davis, the scribe who gave us *Hammer of the Gods: The Led Zeppelin Saga*, *Watch You Bleed* is essentially a glossy overview of Guns n’ Roses and their meteoric rise from playing sleazy Sunset Strip nightclubs to being arguably one of the most important bands in the world. The book comes off like a fan’s account written for other fans, though without any of the deep, dark secrets and insights that a true fan would have enjoyed.

Here it is in a nutshell: Axl is moody, troubled and perpetually late, a diva in every sense. Slash is drunk, Duff is drunk and high, Izzy is missing, and Steven Adler is a junkie who is also annoying. The band drinks, takes drugs and has sexual encounters with tawdry rock chicks. They are industry bad boys who rebel against everything and everyone and still “make it.” But anyone who knows anything about this band (I didn’t really) already knows all of this—and the rest of us can easily guess what happens next.

It’s disappointing that Davis didn’t dig a bit deeper. For example, it would have been interesting to examine why, in Axl Rose’s world, whenever he has an “issue” (which is *always*), his audience and fan base inevitably seem to lose. Calling this book a “puff piece” might be too heavy of a put-down, but it doesn’t tell anyone anything about why one of the biggest rock acts of the 1990s could never be successful over the long run, or what accounted for the “magic” between the five original members of the classic Appetite-era G’n’R. Mostly, it’s just a “sex and drugs and rock ‘n’ roll” tale that’s already been told ad infinitum. —Danny Sage



THE GAY BLADES

Ghosts
(Triple Crown)



On their confident debut, the Gay Blades rep the so-called “trash-pop” sect. Yet despite their flamboyant, homoerotic appellation and glam-rock auspices, guitarist-vocalist Clark Westfield and drummer-vocalist Puppy Mills skirt the issue of real or imagined gayness, concentrating instead on crafting their beguilingly eclectic tunes.

Mixing blazing guitar workouts with introspective ballads like the earnestly crooned and dramatic “Dog Day Afternoon,” the Gay Blades shift stylistic permutations at will. Protean happy-sad melodies shape the ever-changing moods, but it’s the ravishing vocal quavers, whimpers, moans and groans that truly give color to the Blades’ wry attitudinal disposition. Their gear-jamming, Drive-By Truckers-derived blues-rocker, “Bob Dylan’s 115th Nightmare,” takes on a trendy down-and-out drunkard, while another electrifying highlight, “Hey She Say,” trembles with heartbreaking bewilderment while duping the Strokes’ uppity six-string garage glory. And there’s lipstick traces of the Queens of the Stone Age’s punk-metal seduction fortifying “O Shot.” They even touch upon emotional hardcore with the modernly distressed “Robots Can Fuck Your Shit Up.”

In concert, the Gay Blades have been known to spark up some wickedly fun-crazed cover versions. This is likely a clue to the pair’s musical resourcefulness. Exhibiting the same ease updating glittery ’70s standards as they do coping their fashionable contemporaries, this New York City pair end up distilling the best of both influences, brewing their own potent elixir in the process. —John Fortunato



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BY BOBBY BLACK

SMOKE ON THE WATER

This year's Seattle Hempfest was one for the record books.

After my cross-country tour, the next stop on my "Smoke the Vote" campaign would be Washington—State, that is. I'd never been to Seattle before, but our associate publisher, Rick Cusick, has been a featured speaker at Hempfest for the past few years, and had regaled me with such exciting tales that I volunteered to accompany him this year and run the HIGH TIMES booth.

We were staying at the historic Edgewater Inn, notorious stomping ground of British Invaders like the Fab Four, the Stones and Led Zeppelin. In fact, our room was directly adjacent to the Beatles Suite—the location of Zep's infamous "mudshark" incident (Google it). Our buddy Gideon picked us up on Saturday morning in a golf cart and zipped us through the thickening crowds in Myrtle Edwards Park and over to our booth near the main stage, which we were sharing with NORML and the Emperor of Hemp himself, Jack Herer.

empty seat with a bunch of chill younger heads from Oregon. Just before dessert, NORML's Jeff Steinborn got up and requested that we go around the room and introduce ourselves. It was then that I learned my tablemates were the children of Meril Draper, a beloved Hempfest crewman who'd recently died in a tragic motorcycle accident. After dinner, we had a monster session out front in his honor before departing for the night.

The next day, I put on my journalist hat and got busy, snagging interviews with sexy singer Kim Manning, pro-pot congressional candidate Paul Richmond and stoner travel guru Rick Steves. I was even interviewed myself—for a live Internet broadcast called The Show With No Name. I spent the rest of the day at the HIGH

TIMES booth, slinging merch, signing mags, meeting the many fans that came by, and listening to speeches by the nation's most devoted activists—veteran freedom fighters like NORML

Hitting the world's largest joint.



founder Keith Stroup and Hempfest organizer Vivian McPeak, who



Kim Manning and Vivian McPeak

informed the crowd that we'd set a new attendance record of 150,000 people. That was the second record broken that weekend; then, just around 4:20, came the hat trick: the world's largest joint.

Now, I was among the first to toke upon the previous "world's largest joint," rolled in Amsterdam at the 2006 Cannabis Cup, and I can tell you that this one was just as long and almost three times as wide. It had been crafted, I later learned, using half a bucket of Blueberry, 10 rolls of EZ Wider paper and cardboard towel rolls as its filter. I stared greedily as this gigantic joint crowd-surfed its way toward our booth, landing in the hands of Hemperor Herer himself. As he held it up and took a puff, a deafening cheer echoed across the park, dwarfing any I'd heard all weekend.

Next up was Keith Stroup, who took a deep drag and passed it to me.

"We should do this every weekend," I said as I took a toke.

He placed his hand on my shoulder and replied, "We're working on it." ✨

For more info, go to hempfest.org. Check out video from this year's Hempfest at hightimes.com/almostinfamous.



vaporella's hit of the month

New York Adorned, one of the finest tattoo parlors in the Big Apple, recently held a live exhibition to show off its inkers' unique skills.

Putting their needles aside in favor of charcoal pencils, paint and multi-colored Sharpies, the artists were given life-size cardboard cutouts of a naked woman to use as a showcase for their personal design preferences.

Judging by this sketch from Horizakura, his personal recreational preferences are a large part of his inking inspiration.



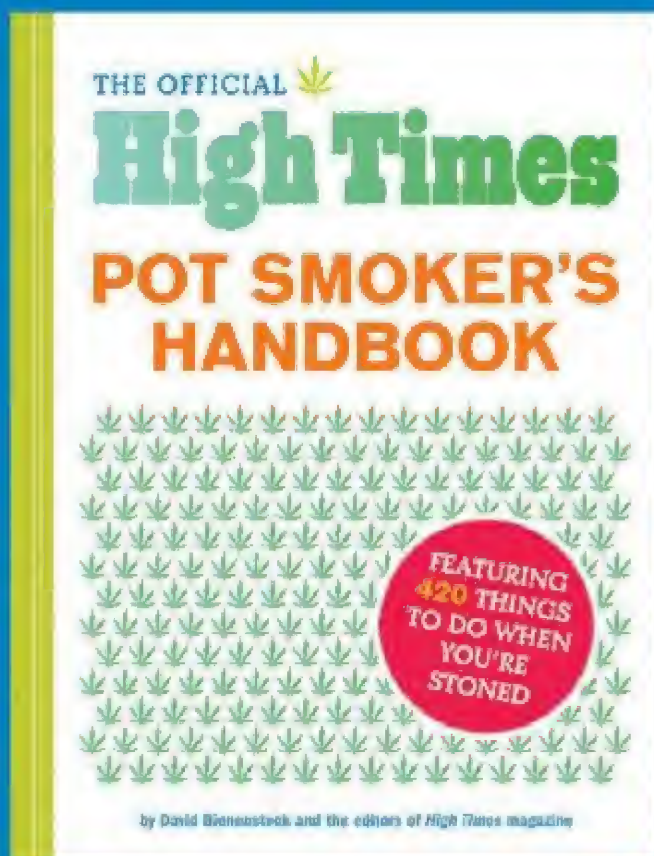
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BRAIN DAMAGE CONTROL

WAS MOSES TRIPPING?

BY PAUL KRASSNER

So now I have a new theological question: What exactly was Moses tripping on while hallucinating that he was parting the Red Sea? After all, Benny Shanon, who teaches cognitive psychology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, theorizes in *Time and Mind*, a journal of philosophy, that Moses was simultaneously high on Mount Sinai and high on psychedelics when he heard God delivering the Ten Commandments.

"The thunder, lightning and blaring of a trumpet which the Book of Exodus says emanated from Mount Sinai could just have been the imaginings of a people in an altered state of awareness," he writes. "In advanced forms of ayahuasca inebriation, the seeing of light is accompanied by profound religious and spiritual feelings."

Professor Shanon theorizes that potent psychoactive concoctions could have been prepared using the bark of the acacia tree, which is frequently mentioned in the Bible and contains the same molecules as those found in the vines of the powerful psychotropic plant from which ayahuasca is made. Shanon ingested ayahuasca himself during a religious ceremony in Brazil's Amazon forest.

His article grew out of a lecture he gave at a conference organized a few years ago by Chris Bennett, who, when asked about Shanon's theory, tells me: "It would be interesting to know if anyone has produced a working ayahuasca-like preparation from the local Mideastern flora and fauna. As it now stands, the information regarding cannabis—or *keneh bosem*, which is regarded as the Hebrew word for pot by a growing number of linguists and etymologists—is much more substantial and believable. What's more interesting about Shanon's theory is that it helps demonstrate the possibility of both shamanism and the use of psychoactive substances in the Bible."

However, Daniel Sieradski, who has been researching the subject of Jews and drugs for six years, claims that while he was in Israel, he met Benny Shanon "on two separate occasions during the course of my research, and he basically lifted his 'Moses was high' theory from me I'm quite pleased that he's bringing attention to these ideas, and that he makes them 'his own' by adding his own spin to the subject. I can't deny that Shanon has his own body of work to draw from, nor can I even necessarily fault him if he doesn't recall our conversation, but it still kind of sucks, missing the boat on publishing the theory before he did. Ah, bitter lemons. Anyway, I believe the Israelites were likely consuming psilocybin."

Sieradski proceeds to tell me the story of



Was Moses tripping?

manna: "After the Jews left Egypt and were wandering in the desert, they're starving and complaining and pleading to God for food, and so there's this miracle of manna, which has traditionally been viewed in mainstream religious discourse as this magical bread that falls out of the sky, and it keeps the people fed for the duration of their wandering in the wilderness before entering the Holy Land.

What manna seems to be is

a hallucinogen," Sieradski adds, speaking of a kind of "mass hallucination ... seeing sounds and hearing colors." I can relate: From my own experience, I recall tasting ice cream in my toes.

Whatever Moses was taking, Shanon has also suggested on Israeli public radio that he was high when he saw the burning bush. HIGH TIMES creative director Steven Hager says: "I've long believed the burning-bush story was about cannabis, and that is what most Rastafarians believe. When the New Testament was constructed by the Roman Empire, all references to psychedelics and cannabis may have been removed, because those were probably considered secrets for an elite priest class. The only references that survive are from the Old Testament—*keneh bosem*, 'burning bush'—which was already published and not under their control."

Aided by this new perspective, then, let us step into the time machine and travel back to ancient civilization to witness certain aspects of religion as history instead of a fairy tale. Here we see Jesus and his disciples in the midst of an Ecstasy party, embracing each other as they slow-dance to the music of Mistress Magdalene and the Merry Maidens. Oh, look, Judas is French-kissing Jesus.

Going further back in time, we find Joseph plucking magic mushrooms out of a pile of his donkey's manure and then sharing them with the dove that somehow impregnated his wife, the one and only Virgin Mary.

Even further back, we come upon Moses, thoroughly stoned on the DMT that he's been snorting as he begins to set the original Ten Commandments in stone:

*Thou shalt not bogart that joint.
Thou shalt not dose anyone with acid.
Thou shalt not step on cocaine with baby powder.
Thou shalt not watch TV while using mescaline.
Thou shalt not steal from thy parents' prescription medicines.*

Moses stops to check his spelling and speaks to God: "Some day, O Lord, these commandments will be posted on every citizen's door." ✨



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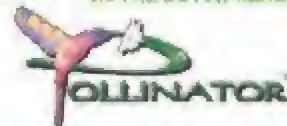
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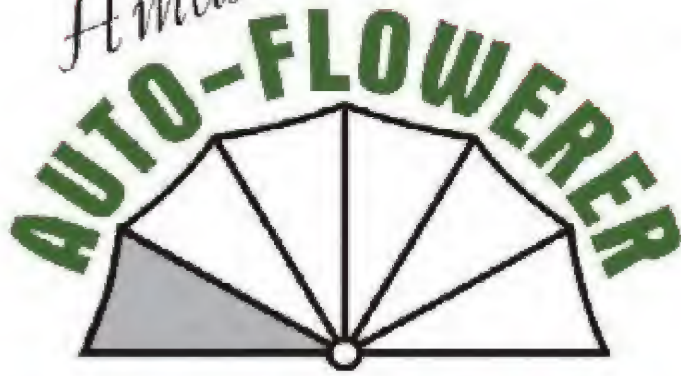
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Tattoo-shop owner
Chris Partain and
Vanessa Alexandra
burn it up at
Albuquerque's
Star Tattoo.

Stoner Ink

As tattooing seeps deeper into the skin of mainstream America, more and more people are pushing the limits when choosing an epidermal manifesto. It stands to reason that pot tattooing has also become increasingly popular. Whether you're the inker or the inked, pot tats are more than a statement—they're a commitment. **By Justin Hampton**

Part surgical chamber, part hipster atelier, this slickly furnished tattoo shop appears dead to any potential business that may wander in from Hollywood's foot traffic. Of course, all one has to do is to smell the burning resin mixed in like an added texture to recognize why: Inside, there's not just one, but two clients of LA-based tattoo artist and medical-marijuana patient Landon Heying locking their respect for marijuana into their skin.

Seated in a dentist's chair is Chris, a burly, shorthaired punk whose previous tats—like the Arabic script that translates into “Booty King”—display his irreverent nature. He's getting a huge blunt draped with pot leaves on his upper bicep. In between cigarette breaks, Chris says he's been pretty firm on the look for a while now. “You have to be,” he admits. “After all, you're branded for life.”

Lying on a patient's bench is Leah, who's getting a procession of flowers interspersed with hemp leaves down the left side of her back. She describes this tattoo as a dedication to her late father, a horticulturalist whose favorite flower was cannabis. “I don't smoke it myself, but he did every day,” she recalls. “So this is to show how much he stays with me.”

Whatever the rationale, in Western culture, pot and tattoo artists and aficionados have gone hand-in-latex-glove with each other since the countercultural boom of the late '60s, when hippies, radicals and other non-denizens of the mainstream began appropriating the tradition. “They wound up getting peace signs, pot leaves, Zig-Zag Man—whereas servicemen were getting eagles and ‘USN’ or ‘USMC’ or something like that,” recalls Lyle Tuttle, who tattooed Janis Joplin, Grateful Dead tour manager Sam Cutler and Peter Fonda during his 41-year career as an ink slinger in San Francisco. “You had Black Panthers coming in getting tattooed, hippies coming in and getting tattooed, all these servicemen in the shop—a whirlpool is the best way you could explain it.”

Of course, the tattoo tradition goes back even further, cutting deeply across race, time and societal configuration. The Maoris of New Zealand and the Haida of Western Canada received gorgeous, finely contoured arabesques on their chests, hands and face as a rite of passage, which would



“Straight people don't know / What you're about . . .”

serve as grist for the “tribal” tattoo trends of the '90s. The Japanese developed—and arguably appropriated from the Chinese—images of dragons, carp, and other symbols of honor and fertility into a distinctively integrated style that transformed the entire body into an elegant canvas. And in Thailand, tattoo magi created ink-sealed, pointillist talismans designed to bring wealth, love and luck to their wearers. But all this was lost upon 20th-century Western society, where misinformation and fear drove the practice underground and made it illegal to perform in many cities and states until as recently as *this decade*, when South Carolina and Oklahoma were the last to abolish their anti-tattooing laws. Sound familiar?

Nowadays, thanks to the example set by rock stars, pro athletes and TV reality shows such as *LA Ink*, people from all walks of life get them. Celebrity tattoo artists like *LA Ink*'s Kat Von D, who attended a Marijuana Policy Project

fundraiser in 2007, and the retired (for now) Don Ed Hardy, whose work and *TattooTime* book series paved the way—along with RE/Search's *Modern Primitives*—for the acceptance of tattooing as a fine-art form, have parlayed their names into brand identities adorning T-shirts and perfumes. An extraordinary diversity exists in the tattoo workplace these days, with highly skilled artists pushing the form into heretofore-unexplored realms of photorealism and biomechanics. And the more stringent enforcement of health codes has made the experience a safer one.

Yet some bemoan the loss of the outlaw vibe, claiming that a new ambivalence towards pot use has accompanied mainstream acceptance. “In tattooing, yeah, there's a lot more people nowadays that would be against somebody that smokes pot working for them—as opposed to back in the olden days, when people wouldn't really care as much,” opines OG Tatu Scooby, an 18-year tattoo veteran and medical-marijuana grower in Washington State. “Nowadays, they do in some shops, and in some shops they don't.”

Even among those who smoke, this ambivalence arises from a concern that tattooing could regain the unsavory reputation it once possessed, when bikers, gang members and convicts dominated the community. These fears are unfortunately well grounded, with certain workplaces continuing to frown on body art; in fact, a poll conducted by Texas Tech University showed a rise in the number of women going to tattoo-removal clinics, citing negative societal reaction as a reason for their change of heart (and skin). This has also affected people like Louisiana-based tattoo artist Mike Graves. His outspokenness and willingness to give pot tattoos—which he considers a specialty—haven't always won him fans in the Deep South. “I've got so much flak because I'm pretty open about it,” he reports. “I had some guys that worked in the same town as me saying, ‘Oh, you give tattoo artists a bad name—we're not all potheads.’ That just stems from the whole misrepresentation of cannabis in the first place. It's just perpetuating those stereotypes.”

Even so, a pothead doesn't have to look too hard or long to find a sympathetic counterpart in

Stoner Ink



The Big Rock Candy Mountain.



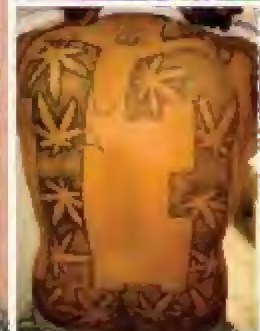
Guy Aitchison's vision of pot's inner world.



Good for what ails ya.



(Above) A purple haze. (Left) Negative-space tattooing in the unluckiest of places.



'THIS IS AN INDUSTRY HEAVILY SATURATED WITH DRUGS—JUST LIKE THE MUSIC INDUSTRY.'

the field. As an independent tattoo artist and full-time stoner, LA-based tattooist Julie Becker acknowledges: "This is an industry heavily saturated with drugs—just like the music industry. So I think whether or not the quality of your work suffers is the question." DiMattia recommends making a selection based on pothead simpatico: "If you're gonna get a larger work or going to spend a lot of time with a tattoo artist, you need to have a personal connection with that person. So you tend to go for the artist that reflects your own style, your own vibe, your own values ... and because tattooing is growing, you have a greater choice."

For those tattoo artists who do smoke, pot comes in handy for everything from enhancing creativity to soothing the muscles and joints irritated by hours in static positions. "The more I do it, the more art I seem to produce," says Becker. "It keeps me very focused, and it keeps my body and my muscles relaxed—and that's important for someone who's stiff and constantly feeling the pains of the job."

Over the years, hemp has entered into the aftercare phase of tattooing as well, through the introduction of hemp tattoo balms. These treatments are generally marketed not as a replacement for the medical disinfectants usually provided by tattooists, but for the continued longevity of the tattoo. "Tattoos these days are expensive; you want to protect that investment," DiMattia explains. "And the best way to protect that investment is keeping it out of the sun and keeping it moisturized—and so what these hemp-based products do for tattoo aftercare is, it moisturizes the tattoo." Merry Hempsters CEO Gerry Shapiro believes that the users of his tattoo balm are attracted by its organic, animal-product-free composition. "People like the idea of the hemp, and it's vegan and it's moisturizing," he says. "Those are the three main points that are generally trotted out. There are a lot of vegans out there that are somewhat tribal, so they have a lot of marks on them."

Of course, few marks raise as many red flags as the iconic marijuana leaf that many stoners gravitate toward when it's time to pledge their subdermal allegiance. Various tattoo artists contacted for this article—even those who are otherwise pot-friendly—say they routinely discourage clients from getting these sorts of tattoos, not only for the social stigma they can bestow, but because their presence immediately gives police probable cause

for search and seizure. DiMattia, who is currently writing a book on tattoo law, confirms this: "I have read cases where tattoos were part of the totality of circumstances that satisfied the elements of probable cause. It's legal, but that doesn't make it right," she says. "Therefore, those who get drug-related tattoos have to understand that they can be used against them."

Of course, some people let little stand in the way of their ambitions, no matter where they choose to get tattooed—perennial Missouri political candidate Chief Wana Dubie has run for public office twice in the past two years with a huge, ultra-crudely rendered pot leaf emblazoned on his forehead. But most tattooists will stop short of placing such a polarizing symbol on readily visible areas like the face, hands or neck. For while a pot leaf is hardly as inflammatory as a swastika, it's a symbol that the authorities are still prejudiced against—and one that many people choose to remove or cover up once their priorities shift. "Tattoos remain constant, but people change," observes Tuttle, who routinely transformed *Playboy* Bunny logos into pot leaves back in the '70s. "So if they're wearing something that's not in vogue or not fitting their lifestyle at the time, then they wind up getting them covered up."

True, certain people will embrace pot tattoos as a sign of outlaw defiance—one tattooist interviewed mentioned framing the letters "FTP" (for "Fuck the Police") with a wreath of pot leaves for one client. But these days, there are a number of reasons why people get pot-leaf tattoos—commitment is the only constant. "The majority of people coming in who are going to get a tattoo that's pot-related or hemp-related, they *know* what they're getting," Scooby maintains. "They've got a conviction."

Many stoner artists have turned their attention to capturing the bud instead of the leaf. Mike Graves and his wife have buds tattooed on their

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RIP, Dimebag Darrell.



Come blow your horn.

'THE LEAF IS A SYMBOL. NOT JUST A PICTURE—IT'S "HI! I SMOKE MARIJUANA!"'

hands, and he reports that oftentimes, people who are not longtime tokers barely recognize them, which suits him fine. And high-end artists such as Guy Aitchison, who's gained world renown for his psychedelic-visionary approach to the form, prefer a more creative and impressionistic interpretation of the subject matter. "The leaf is a symbol. It's not just a picture—it's 'Hi! I smoke marijuana!'" Aitchison theorizes. "And something a lot more artistic and with more substance to it as a picture isn't gonna immediately jump out in that same way."

Indeed, few people are as devoted to the cause as those who choose to get large-scale work etched on their bodies. Canadian pot activist Loretta Clark recently documented her bud-tattoo experience on her online TV show *Cannabis Closet*, explaining to HIGH TIMES that she saw it as an outward depiction of her own hard work for pot's legalization. "This is a lesson I learned from gay and lesbian battles in Canada, and that is to face the fucking stigma face on and be empowered and strong by doing so," she says.

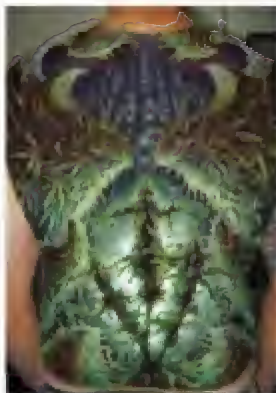
Scotty, a hot-tub salesman from Wisconsin, has commissioned Milwaukee-based tattooist Dan Hazelton to cover his body with a fully integrated dark-art-themed ruminations on pot, starting with a photorealistic depiction of a plant on his back ensnaring his legs, plus a brooding black-and-gray depiction of a *Matrix*-style industrial pot field where cranes pluck the waiting buds and place them in a chimney-like pipe smoked by a solemn visage erupting from an eternally hazy sky. His back will eventually show an entire world overrun by marijuana plants, with the planet Earth visible in its skies. A victim of the War on Drugs, with two felonies for growing and conspiracy and a grueling stay at boot camp in his past, Scotty has commissioned the tattoos as a coming to terms with—and

a loving embrace of—the plant he's sacrificed so much for. "I'm trying to give myself to it. It's brought me through a lot of rough times in my life, so I thought: Why not show it?" he says. "A lot of my rights have been taken away over it, so I might as well live it and show it proud."

So for those about to get tattooed for the right reason, your compatriots salute you. "You gotta stand up for what you believe in," Scooby insists. "It would help more patients lead better, healthier lives—and if people could show it on their skin, that's even better."

Back in the days of the tattoo industry's infancy in the US, what was possible was constrained by societal taboos and stylistic conventions. Nowadays, enthusiasts can receive work that was unthinkable decades ago. "People used to come into my tattoo studio and wanted to get photorealistic tattoos, like portraits. And I would tell them that that was impossible. But they're doing them today," notes Tuttle. Therefore, customers should now see their imagination as their only constraint. DiMattia advises: "Don't limit yourself. Think of how you wanna represent yourself to the world visually, and you're gonna find a tattoo artist that can do the job."

Back at his shop, Heying considers the work he's done today. He fully acknowledges the benefits



(Above) Hazelton's projected vision for Scotty's back. (Below) Scotty's current back design.



Matching father/daughter tattoos.



he's enjoyed from the acceptance of both pot and tattooing in modern society. He knows that criminals get tattoos, but so do doctors and lawyers—and they smoke pot, too. Like any good work of art, societal mores can only be perfected through time and perseverance. But it's all in a day's—or a life's—work. "It goes hand in hand with the marijuana thing as well, the tattooing," Heying observes. "Pot's so much less taboo than it used to be, and it's really because people are getting more knowledge about it. When people get educated, then that's when the stigmas that are attached to it start to get released a little." 🌿

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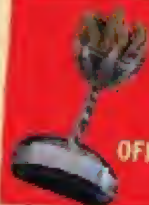
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THE LEGEND OF THE BURMESE

How It Came to Be Through Good Things

HIGH TIMES continues our coverage of Canadian strains with the latest from our good friend G. of Vancouver Island Seed Company (VISC). This strain report is especially important as it relates to a phenomenon found in seed banks and breeding projects worldwide: the exotic lineage of Burmese genetics.

Words by G., Photography by K.

This Burmese grew well past the first frost of the year which brought out a nice purple color.



GOOD PEOPLE, GOOD LUCK ...

My first whiff hit me like a ton of bricks the second my brother opened the door of his house. The smell it exuded was remarkable, a unique yet overwhelmingly strong aroma, so pleasant and pungent that it was almost overpowering—something you pulled away from as soon as the fragrance filled your nose, only to immediately pull it closer for another sniff. The problem was that my brother didn't know much about the weed; it was just another of those "great clones" that he received from a good friend of his. Still, I had to find out what this was, where it came from, what the growing conditions were—anything and everything I could learn. So I leaned on my brother a bit to give me any info he could.

Instead of information, what I received was even better: an invitation to share a smoke with this mysterious friend. I quickly talked my brother into driving me over to his friend's place, and that's how I met this wonderful world traveler whom I'll call "W.T." The main attraction for me, of course, was to locate the source of that glorious bud my brother had been smoking that day. Little did I know I was about to receive so much more.

Here's a little of the back-story: By the time I met W.T., he had already established a successful commercial grow operation, mostly outdoors, and,

unfortunately, had already retired as well. "Retired," of course, meant that instead of growing, W.T. could encourage and enable others to grow. He accomplished this by starting a small business in a rural town in central British Columbia, offering up equipment and, more importantly, knowledge and advice—a sort of underworld library of grow information for the inexperienced. To a select few, W.T. would also impart something even more valuable: his genetics. He had collected many types of marijuana seeds during the time he'd spent traveling the world, and these genetics had been personally collected, grown and, in some cases, even bred. These were W.T.'s babies.

Over the course of many joints during many hours of conversation about cannabis, travel and smuggling, W.T. enlightened me on the history of the weed he referred to as "Sweet *Sativa*" (or "SS"). The question of "where" had a simple enough answer: SS turned out to be a clone from a seed that W.T. had gleaned from a bud he'd received "somewhere around Burma or Thailand." As for the "how," W.T. had managed to bring home his collection of seeds from the Far East in a manner I'd rather not talk (or even *think*) about. But suffice it to say that he managed.

However, therein lay the bad news: SS was, in fact, a clone-only strain. It had been one of many

seeds from that "somewhere around Burma or Thailand" bud that he'd planted, and those seeds were now long gone. SS was the one phenotype that he'd chosen to keep as his personal favorite—though back in the day, before carbon filters and air scrubbers became common, this bud was a much harder sell, since she emitted a powerful scent that could be easily caught for a hundred yards downwind. Still, I was lucky enough to be offered a clone from an SS mother ... and I took it.

The not-so-bad news was that, when I initially asked W.T. about the possibility of procuring actual seeds for the strain, he told me that while all the original seeds were gone, the SS had in fact already been bred! The male plant (which we'll call CM, for "chosen male") had been selected from the same batch of seeds as the SS. This was excellent: It meant that since they had come from the same bud, the CM seeds and the SS clones at least had the same mother. I was extremely fortunate: I now had a clone of nearly that same heritage, as well as seed that was, at the very least, 50% identical genetically to my desired SS pheno. And I knew it was a *sativa*. In the end, this was much more than I could have hoped to receive from my new friend, and it would eventually lead to very good things for everyone concerned.

... AND A LOT OF WORK

Soon after, I germinated the seeds I'd been given via W.T.'s breeding project (the CM male crossed with the SS), and as soon as they popped, I planted them and waited. The plants that grew were surprisingly uniform, and my hopes rose, only to be quickly dashed—it turned out that while the plants were indeed beautiful, they were definitely not carbon copies of the SS.

So while I had no problem believing that both the SS and the CM male were from the same bud—thus guaranteeing that they came from the same female parent—this didn't establish that they had the same male parent. Momma's baby, Poppa's maybe.

Despite the initial disappointment, I took a couple of clones of each of the seedlings and grew them out. The males sexed first, as usual, and I decided to keep a clone of the very first male to show its sex, removing all the others. As the females (now labeled as Jr.SS) finished elongating and entered the budding stage proper, it soon became obvious that "one of these things is not like the others."

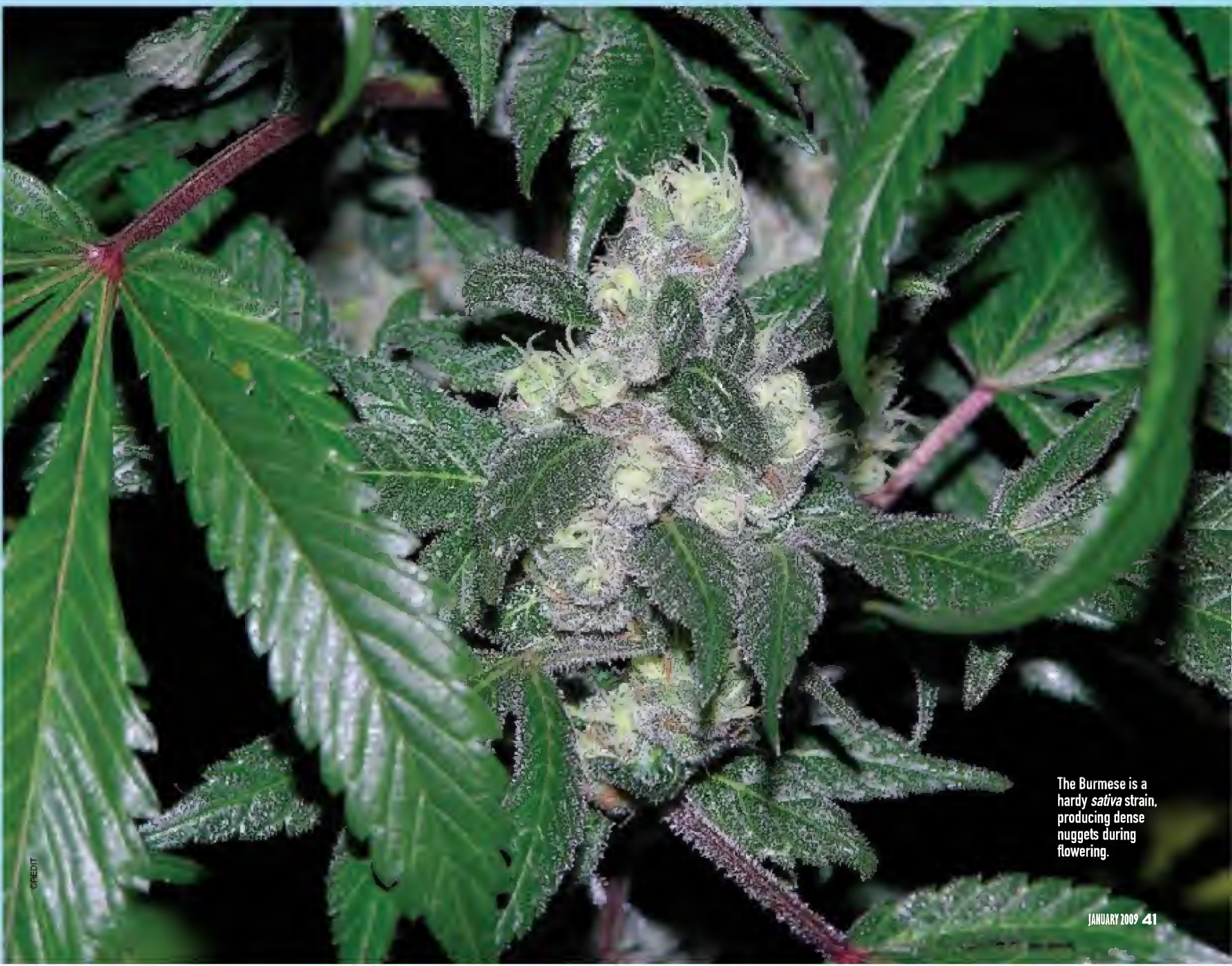
While all of the Jr.SS females had characteristics (especially aroma) that strongly resembled the SS, there was one that not only reminded me of its mother but also outshone her. The smell was intoxicating—even more entrancing than the original SS had been. This plant topped out a hair shorter than her sisters, but she had heavier buds, and so the total yield was higher. Right then and there, I dropped my interest in SS and began a new quest: I had a bigger, better version right there in my hands, and my new goal was to tame *those* genetics. I wanted that breed.

And so the work began. I had both a male and a female that came from the same parents; however, there was enough variance in the offspring to convince me that they were at best an F1 cross. I made the decision to stabilize the new female (Jr.SS) and to breed her with the only surviving male of the species (Jr.SS). The strain that was soon to become the Burmese and I had started the beginning of a long-lasting relationship.

With each new generation, I would cream the genetic mix in my search for the perfect breeding pair, growing out hundreds of seeds at a time. A

pattern soon emerged: The offspring resulting from the odd-numbered breedings repeatedly proved to be superior to the offspring of the even-numbered breedings. By this I mean that the first, third and fifth generations would exceed in every way the second, fourth and sixth generations, and so on. It's a phenomenon that I don't understand to this day; however, it led to many more valuable breeding experiments over the years—including one series that culminated with the creation of the breed KGB.

In the end, it took nine generations to pull out those true Burma qualities! Each generation was carefully screened for the desired characteristics, with the best female and male repeatedly chosen and bred together. Finally, the strain had been stabilized, and the seed was offered to friends and customers around the world as a true breed. After some debate (and mostly because Thai Stick had already come to dominate the Thai brand name), it was decided that the strain should be called Burmese as a nod of appreciation to W.T. and his adventures throughout the Burma region.



The Burmese is a hardy *sativa* strain, producing dense nuggets during flowering.

This Burmese grew big finger fan leaves and a couple of top-heavy colas.

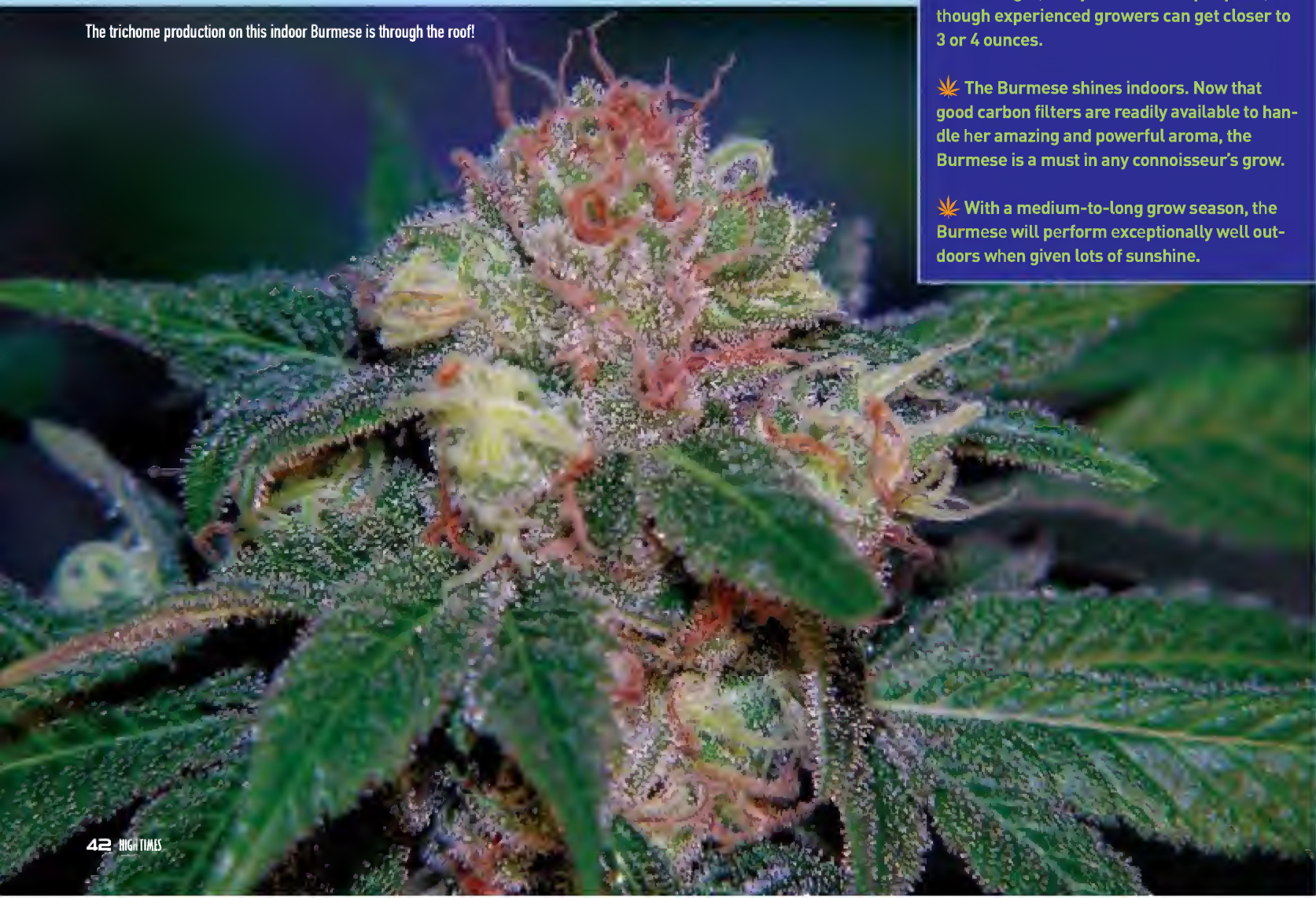


In the early '90s, the decision was made to “cement” the strain. From that point onward, the Burmese seeds we sold were to be 10th-generation seeds, the offspring of the exact same ninth-generation breeding pair. These were chosen to be the patriarch and matriarch of the strain and are maintained in perpetuity through cloning. With this standard established, we could guarantee that the seeds would be the same year after year, something that friends and fellow growers

came to count on. VISC's Burmese has definitely become a must-have among those with the ability to handle her overwhelming aroma. We hope you enjoy her—it was a long road to get here! ✨

The Burmese strain is one of VISC's flagship genetic lines and is readily available, along with many other varieties, at vancouverseed.com, vancouverseed-bank.ca, kindseed.com, worldofseeds.com, seeds-bymail.biz and greenlifeseeds.com.

The trichome production on this indoor Burmese is through the roof!



BURMESE

STATS & SPECS

✨ The Burmese has the extended bracketing between nodes that you'd expect in a pure *sativa*, yet she is one of the quickest-finishing *sativas* available today.

✨ The Burmese is a hardy, easy-to-grow plant with sizeable yields.

✨ Grown on hydro tables (where you flip the clones the first day that you see root tips), the Burmese has been known to harvest in an amazing six to seven weeks, though it's recommended that she be budded for eight weeks to achieve optimum yield.

✨ The Burmese is vigorous when grown from seed and clones easily as well, allowing for a wide range of suitable growing conditions.

✨ The high produced from the Burmese is cerebral and energetic.

✨ Many growers capitalize on the Burmese's *sativa* heritage by prolonging the harvest: cutting the large top colas and leaving the lesser buds to continue fattening. This extends the budding cycle for as long as nine or, in some cases, 10 weeks.

✨ In a 2-gallon pot of soil, the Burmese will flower in eight weeks, grow from 1.4 to 1.7 meters in height, and yield 2 ounces per plant, though experienced growers can get closer to 3 or 4 ounces.

✨ The Burmese shines indoors. Now that good carbon filters are readily available to handle her amazing and powerful aroma, the Burmese is a must in any connoisseur's grow.

✨ With a medium-to-long grow season, the Burmese will perform exceptionally well outdoors when given lots of sunshine.

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SUN N' LEAF
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S, M, L, XL, XXL \$39.99

This shirt is so awesome, the background is done in foil so it changes color in the light. 55% Hemp / 45% certified organic cotton 7.1 oz jersey.

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Modern, stylish fit. Low impact reactive dyes for brilliant colors. Garment wash and for broken-in softness and shrinkage control. Non-GMO enzyme wash for a smooth finish. Soft jersey taping from shoulder to shoulder to maintain shape through repeated washings. Durable double needle stitching.



SKULL W/ TOP HAT
LEAF (LOGO IN GOLD FOIL)

The Skull with top hat is so smooth with his dice & a pot leaf in his hat. Just like all our shirts, you can't even feel that he's there. The Leaf shirt speaks for itself. Both are 100% Fine Jersey cotton, combed for softness & comfort.



M, L, XL, XXL - \$29.99
M, L, XL, XXL - \$20.99

EAGLE ON HEMP
S, M, L, XL, XXL \$39.99

How about this screaming eagle, the marijuana leafs really set it off. If you never had a hemp garment, this is the one to get. 55% Hemp / 45% certified organic cotton 7.1 oz jersey.

Modern, stylish fit. Low impact reactive dyes for brilliant colors. Non-GMO enzyme wash for a smooth finish with shrinkage control. Soft jersey taping from shoulder to shoulder to maintain shape through repeated washings. Durable double needle stitching.



DAGGER ROSE ON HEMP
S, M, L \$37.99

This one is a show stopper. The rose and skull eyes are done in foil, and as always the image and garment are crazy soft!

This sexy girls tank top is comfortable, casual and can go with anything! They are made from 55% hemp, 45% organic cotton jersey combining style with environmental awareness. They are sexy, soft, and resistant to ultraviolet light. And they tend to run a bit smaller than normal.

This sexy girls tank top is comfortable, casual and can go with anything! They are made from 55% hemp, 45% organic cotton jersey combining style with environmental awareness. They are sexy, soft, and resistant to ultraviolet light. And they tend to run a bit smaller than normal.



STONERBELL - WHITE OR PINK

You have to get this one, Stonerbell is so cute with her ponytail, high heels and pot leaf. And she is so soft you can't even feel her. 100% Fine Jersey cotton, combed for softness and comfort.



S, M, L - \$29.99

HEART WITH WINGS ON HEMP
M, L \$37.99

WOW!!! This girls tank top is unbelievable, the heart and wings are super soft and you can't even feel the copper foil outline.

This sexy girls tank top is comfortable, casual and can go with anything! They are made from 55% hemp, 45% organic cotton jersey combining style with environmental awareness. They are sexy, soft, and resistant to ultraviolet light. They also tend to run just a bit smaller than normal.



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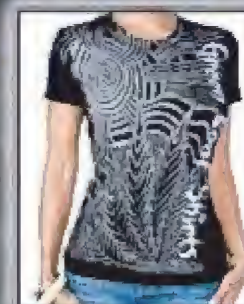
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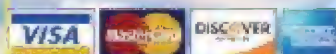
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THE \$10000 GROWROOM

How to Build Your Own Small Growroom, Safely and On the Cheap. **By Nico Escondido**

This story is dedicated to the memory of Todd M., a good grower and a good friend.

A super-charged growroom is simple, efficient and costs less than \$1000....



... it also produced super-charged plants!

Allow me to first throw out a few disclaimers. Our chief concern here in the Cultivation Department, as always, is the safety and well-being of our readers and growers, as well as the families and neighbors of said growers. To grow marijuana safely is sometimes contradictory to doing it inexpensively. Cutting corners can be easier and may save time and money, but remember this: It's one thing to get busted growing weed, but it's an entirely different thing to get busted growing weed because you burned down your house, or an entire apartment building, and people suffered or were injured because of you. This is what we want to avoid. Growing quality cannabis should be a safe and soothing experience, not the contrary.

So in order to protect yourself and those close to you, yet at the same time be able to grow excellent ganja in your own home (on a budget), there are only three words you need to know: **Keep it simple.** Trying to do too much can get costly as well as dangerous and is usually not even necessary. So take a step back and look at your space, and together we can create an inexpensive and safe (but still very effective) method for you to grow your own right in your very own home.

NICO ESCONDIDO (2), JAY GENERATION (1), BIG CROPPA (1)



Inexpensive fluorescent lights provide a good spectrum and are great for mother plants.




This Afghani Dream grows squat, perfect for small indoor spaces.


GETTING DOWN SOME BASICS

Let's approach this logically. The basic tenets of plant biology, or gardening in general, begin with four basic elements: water, light, gases and solids. To start, all four of these elements contribute in some way to photosynthesis—the plant's natural process for manufacturing sugars, or food, for it to live and grow. Water and light are self-explanatory, but the other two require brief explanations. Gases, such as CO₂ and oxygen, are integral to the process of photosynthesis. Solids, such nutrients or fertilizers, are minerals and vitamins that also aid in photosynthesis, food transfer within the plant, cellular growth and disease prevention.

A curious fact that many growers don't often realize is that CO₂ was first introduced into indoor growrooms to treat the problem of heat. With rising growroom temperatures due to high-powered lamps and poor ventilation (two areas that we'll cover in the third section of this article), many indoor growers began using CO₂ to open the plants' stomata, which close up when the plants overheat, thus preventing photosynthesis. By keeping your growroom simple and using the right lighting and ventilation, you can avoid this problem and eliminate almost any need for CO₂. And that's just one example of the many ways you can begin saving money while setting up a top-notch growroom right now!



Reflective material on the walls is simple to do, relatively cheap and helps plants like this Blackeye grow BIG.



A CO₂ tank set-up is a more expensive option for small growrooms.

Build-Your-Own Price List

Simple two-part grow/bloom nutrients (2 quarts): \$25

Advanced 15-part nutrient program: \$425

Simple CO₂-boost organic kit: \$135

CO₂ tank, regulator kit and timer: \$360

GASES AND NUTRIENTS

When it comes to gases and solids, it's not always necessary to artificially infuse these elements into your growroom. Ambient CO₂ levels in our natural atmosphere are high enough for sustaining healthy, happy marijuana gardens. Additionally, oxygen—which is only absorbed by a plant through its root system—is also readily available in plentiful amounts in the air surrounding us. The key to ensuring ample oxygen uptake at the root level lies in using an airy grow medium that allows for good air penetration.

Nutrients and fertilizers take on a slightly different function than do CO₂ and oxygen. While some grow mediums, like outdoor soils or high-quality soilless mixes, contain some amounts of nutrients and minerals, it is sometimes a good idea to supplement your garden with mild amounts of nutrients, especially in the later phases of growth and flowering. If you're using a synthetic grow medium such as rockwool or expanded clay, you will most certainly need nutrient additives. Still, remember to keep it simple.

Whether you're growing hydroponically or using a more organic method, don't go nuts buying the most expensive nutrients on the market or something that has 15 different parts and an insane mixing and feeding schedule. There are plenty of high-quality, inexpensive two- or three-part feeds that work very well. Reputable brands such as Botanicare or General Hydroponics make relatively inexpensive nutrients that are easy to use. All you really need is a two-part nutrient solution: one for use during the vegetative phase (labeled "Grow" on most bottles) and one for use during the flowering phase (labeled "Bloom"). Nutrients are always labeled in the same order, N-P-K: nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K). Nutrient fertilizers are formulated to include these and other major nutrients (known as macronutrients) as well as the essential micronutrients that your plants will need during each phase of growth.

And just like that, you can eliminate the need to add tanks of CO₂, regulators and timers, air pumps, spaghetti lines to the root zones, dozens of bottles of nutrients, huge mixing buckets and all that other expensive gear that growers throw in their growrooms. Keeping it simple saves time and money and not only makes for happier plants, but also happier growers.

LIGHTING AND VENTILATION

This is perhaps the most important section for your growroom, and the reason is twofold. First, lighting represents both the most expensive and the most dangerous aspect of your indoor grow op. And second, as mentioned earlier, lighting also presents one of the biggest hazards to your plants—heat.

Let's begin with choosing the best lamp for your growroom. The first rule: No matter what size your space is or what system your garden utilizes, *never* buy a cheap or secondhand lamp. Growroom lights use a lot of electricity, and the wiring and ballasts that supply that electricity to the bulb is the difference in whether or not a fire can start in your growroom. Therefore, this is *not* the place to skimp on costs.

The next thing to focus on is your actual growroom size. High-intensity discharge (HID) lamps are sometimes too intense for a very small space. For spaces smaller than 4' x 4', you may consider using fluorescent bulbs, perhaps something on par with a bank of T5 or T8 fluorescents. These bulbs are inexpensive, use way less power, give off very little heat and provide excellent spectrum for plants—but they will yield less than HID lamps come harvest time.

If your space is slightly larger, or has more space for ample air circulation and ventilation, you can consider larger lamps. Metal halide (MH) and high-pressure sodium (HPS) bulbs are the most popular choices among growers, but if you're going with only one fixture, HPS is the usual choice. Some ballasts allow growers to switch bulbs, using an MH during the vegetative ("grow") cycle and HPS during the flowering ("bloom") cycle. These bulbs usually range from 250 to 1,000 watts. Figure 1.1 shows the coverage areas for bulbs of various wattages.

Another important consideration when choosing your lamps is the type of ballast your lighting system will utilize. Today's grower has two options: core and coil ballast (magnetic) or an electronic (digital) ballast. The newest and most efficient ballast on the market is the electronic ballast, but it's also the most expensive. Choose a ballast that suits your budget—but again, it's always best to buy a new unit that comes directly from the store or manufacturer with a warranty.

Depending on the size of your growroom and the bulb size you use, ventilation becomes increasingly important, as does general air circulation. Ventilation



A larger set-up with multiple lamps requires air-cooling, ductwork and fans.

This make-shift air vent is pulling air into a room to cool lights.



Outside air is blown through the reflector hoods and vented back outside the growroom.



WATTAGE	COVERAGE AREA	HEIGHT ABOVE CANOPY
250	4' x 4'	12" - 18"
400	5' x 5'	14" - 24"
600	6' x 6'	18" - 30"
1,000	8' x 8'	24" - 36"

Figure 1.1 shows coverage area of HID bulbs.

Build-Your-Own Price Sheet

4' four-bulb T5 fluorescent system: \$150
 4' eight-bulb T5 fluorescent system: \$280
 400-watt MH/HPS system: \$297
 400-watt MH/HPS digital system: \$290
 1,000-watt HPS system: \$180
 1,000-watt air-cooled HPS system: \$260

Dual (intake/exhaust) window fan: \$20
 10" power intake floor fan: \$30
 16" oscillating fan with stand: \$30
 6" inline can-fan (440 cfm): \$185
 6" flex duct, non-insulated (25'): \$27



Hang lamps from chains and suspend them 24" from plant tops.



Self-watering planters can produce lush, full cannabis plants.

can be as simple as a small intake fan at the bottom of your space and an exhaust fan at the top of the room. Good air circulation can be achieved with another small oscillating fan situated on a table or wall mount near the top third of your canopy. Ventilation helps prevent heat from building up in the grow-room, and the circulation helps keep the temperature down, as well as moving air past the leaves for better CO₂ absorption.

Using HID lamps makes it essential that your room is properly ventilated. Some people choose to air-cool the bulb and reflector hood with inline fans and ducting, and even though this is a very good option, this method can get very pricey. To keep things inexpensive, install an air vent at the bottom of the room's door and put a small floor fan inside the room to pull air in. To exhaust the room, find a spot to vent air out near the top of the room, where the heat will be accumulating. A small window might work, or you could cut a small hole in the top of a wall or door—and again, installing an air vent will also work very well. Affixing an exhaust fan to this vent or hole can be done by hanging the fan on chains from the ceiling or using a wall mount. In extreme situations where high vent holes might pose a problem, you can use flexible ducting attached to a floor-based fan. Hang the ductwork high in the room—preferably over your light—and work it down the wall to a fan that is blowing the hot air out of the room. Flexible ducting, chains, air vents and wall mounts are all relatively inexpensive items and can usually be found at your local hardware store or Home Depot.



An interior shot of an Earth Box. Notice the raised floor and fill tube.

Wick Systems and Earth Boxes

For even less maintenance, but at slightly greater cost, other good options for small indoor grow ops are wick systems and Earth Boxes. Both systems allow the grower some flexibility in choosing a grow medium and utilize built-in reservoirs so that plants can go days at a time between waterings.

Wick systems do exactly what the name says: They wick up water from a bottom reservoir to the root zone, sometimes utilizing an actual rope-type wick to draw water up, and sometimes allowing the grow medium to act as a wick. The reservoir is usually filled from a tube that begins above the surface of the grow medium. These systems come in a variety of sizes, from buckets to troughs to entire trays.

Earth Boxes are basically all-in-one, self-contained wick-system gardens. They don't use an actual wick, but rather allow the roots to grow all the way down to the reservoirs where water is stored. The plants can wick up, or drink, water as needed. The water can be mixed in a nutrient solution or added straight.

Whether you choose a traditional wick system or an Earth Box, the best choice for a grow medium is potting mix or some soilless pro-mix. Many growers will mix coco-coir (shredded coconut fiber) or other airy mediums into potting mixes to allow better air penetration.



A raised floor fan can provide air-circulation and prevent heat build ups.

Build-Your-Own Price List

Earth Box (29" x 13.5" x 11"): \$48

Hydro-Buckets (set of 12 pots, 6"/ 1-gal.): \$150

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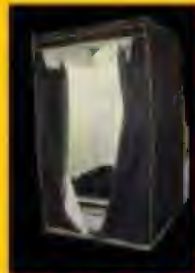
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- Organic Grow Room 4 X 4 \$699.99
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WATERING AND GROW MEDIUMS

Since the goal of this article is to put together a budget-conscious growroom, this section pertaining to watering is relatively easy: water by hand. It's free and easy, minus maybe the cost of a watering can. In a day and age when numerous watering systems dot the market, if you can water your garden yourself once a day, it will pay off not only in dollar savings but also in countless other ways, such as experience and a better understanding of gardening.

Flood tables, drip and NFT (nutrient-film technique) systems, bucket systems and so on will all cost unmanageable amounts of cash if you're building a growroom for under \$1,000. And this doesn't just include the upfront costs of a \$350 or \$500 hydro system, or the endless list of peripheral timers, knobs and tubes, but also the maintenance and replacement-part costs that inevitably come after every harvest. Larger systems always require extra thought and money. There's nothing quite like six or eight 2-gallon buckets with a soft pro-mix as the grow medium and a little pump pail and spray wand.

And that brings us to grow mediums. Obviously, if you eliminate the hydroponic and aeroponic methods, that leaves very few choices. You can use bags or buckets, or you can build (or buy) a tray, table, trough or bed that you can fill with medium. Watering clay aggregate or rockwool by hand is not a very common practice; the more traditional (and recommended) method would be to fill your grow container with either soil or a soilless mix. Soilless mixes look and act much like soil, but they're much softer and usually peat- or sphagnum-based. Pro-mixes can also have perlite, vermiculite, coco-coir or wood pieces mixed in.

There are a few advantages that soilless mixes have over actual soil. Soilless mixes are sterile and insect-free, which is very important when growing indoors. Additionally, these mixes are much lighter than soil, and the additives, such as perlite or wood chips, help air to permeate the medium, getting more oxygen to the roots. The perlite and vermiculite are also excellent at absorbing and holding moisture for the plants to use later, even after the medium is dry.

Of course, the advantage of soil is that it acts as much more of a buffer for the roots during feeding cycles. This can be particularly helpful for beginner grow-

ers who have less experience applying nutrients to gardens. Because roots are extremely sensitive and delicate, they can easily sustain root burn from overfeeding or—even worse—nutrient lock-up from a buildup of excess salts due to heavy nutrient application. Soil will naturally buffer some of this and aid in breaking down nutrients into elemental forms for easier uptake by your plants' root systems. Many growers who use non-soil mediums such as pro-mixes, clay or rockwool will mix a microbial water treatment into their nutrient solution to introduce natural microorganisms and beneficial bacteria into the grow medium. This aids the roots in nutrient uptake and helps prevent mold or fungus from forming—a very cheap and effective solution to a common problem. ✨

Build-Your-Own Price List

Potting soil, 50 lb. bag: \$25
Pro-Mix, 50 lb. bag: \$36
Expanded clay, 50 liters: \$40

Ebb-and-flow hydro system (3'x 3'): \$350
Eight-bucket hydroponic system: \$290
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—600-watt bulbs create less heat, run more efficiently and are usually cheaper than 1,000-watt systems.

—Rather than purchase a roll of reflective Mylar for your growroom walls, use aluminum foil, which is way less expensive. Just make sure not to wrinkle the foil.

—Space problem? In lieu of a closet, you can use a Hydro Tent to house a small indoor garden. Smaller tents are inexpensive enough to consider for tight-budget ops.

—Also check out single-pot, stand-alone bucket-drip systems that feed plants from the top using a drip emitter as a low-maintenance and inexpensive solution for easy indoor gardening.

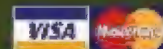
600-watt HPS bulb/ballast/reflector: \$330
600-watt digital system
Hydro Tent, 4' x 4' x 8': \$240

Reflective Mylar (100 sq. ft. roll): \$35
Box of aluminum foil (20 sq. ft.): \$1.75
Top-feed bucket drip system: \$40

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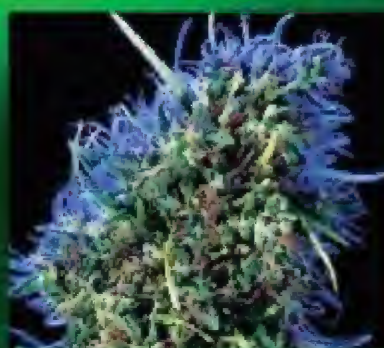
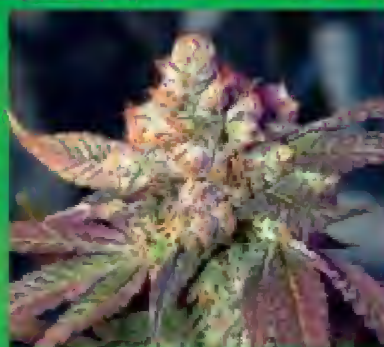
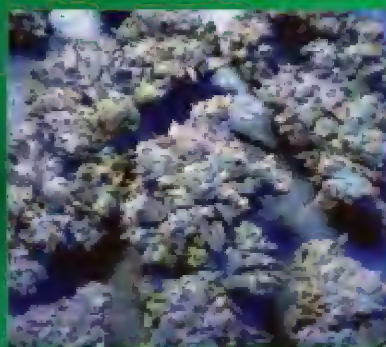


HIGH TIMES
OCTOBER 2009

INDOOR TIP
Stop fertilizing at least a week before harvest. Many growers stop fertilizing two or more weeks before harvest. Continue to fertilize with a super-bloom formula high in phosphorus and potassium and very low nitrogen if you plan to harvest next month.

OUTDOOR TIP
Remember to water your plants every day. If you are growing outdoors, you will need to water your plants every day. If you are growing indoors, you will need to water your plants every day. If you are growing outdoors, you will need to water your plants every day. If you are growing indoors, you will need to water your plants every day.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



INDOOR GROW TIP
Stop fertilizing at least a week before harvest. Many growers stop fertilizing two or more weeks before harvest. Continue to fertilize with a super-bloom formula high in phosphorus and potassium and very low nitrogen if you plan to harvest next month.

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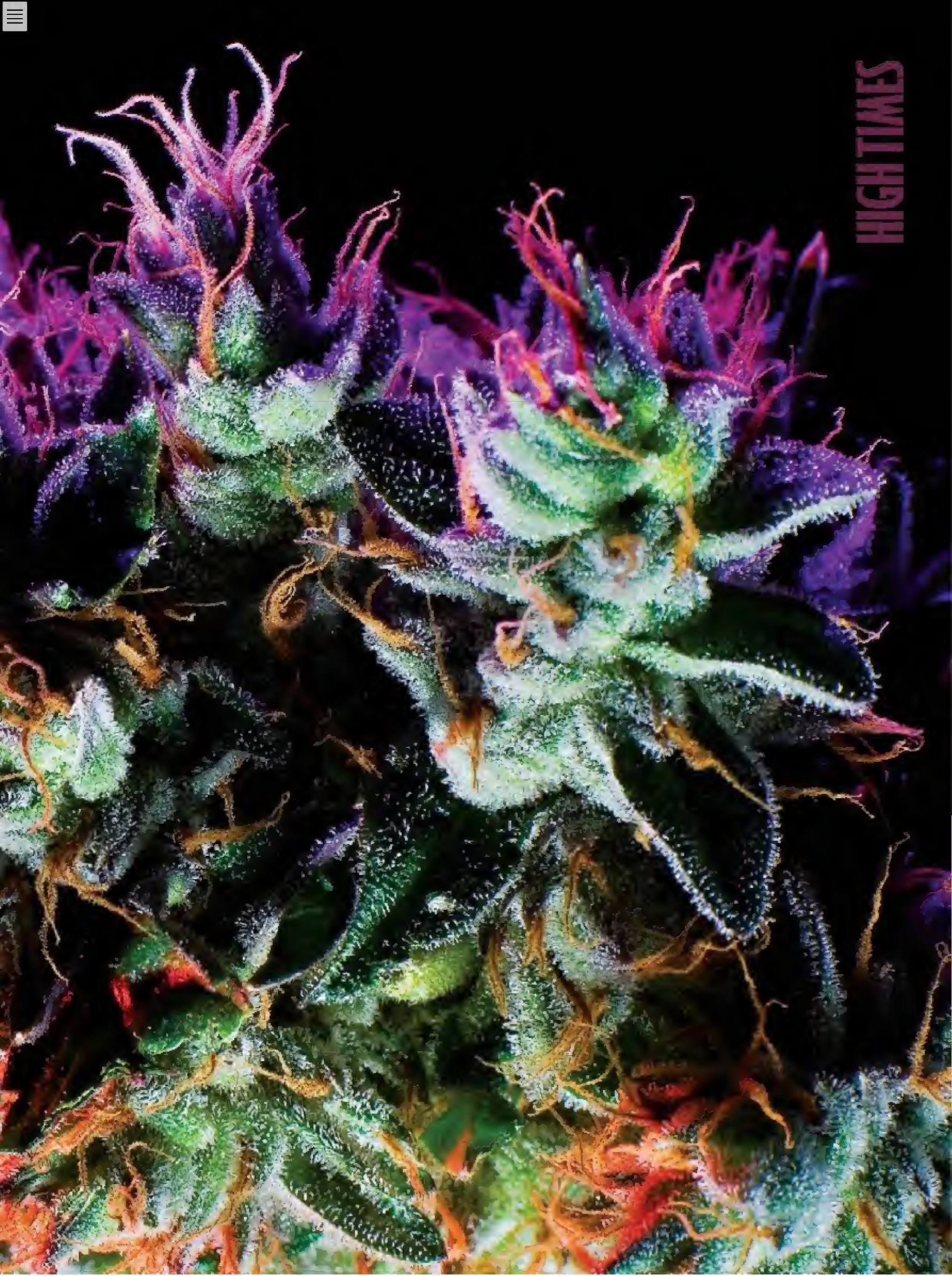


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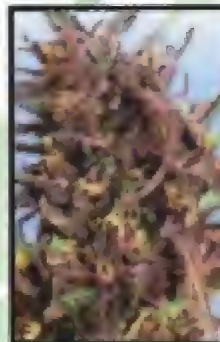
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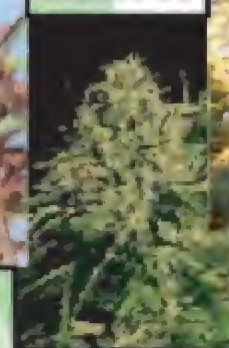
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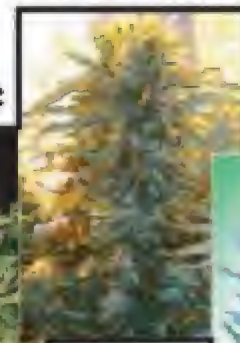
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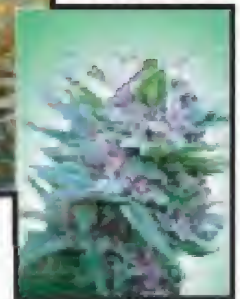
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THE MYTH OF POT POTENCY

Perhaps you've heard: Today's marijuana will blow your mind. Not in a good way, either. In fact, it could kill you. That's what the Feds say—and they're always right. Right? **By Paul Armentano**

"This ain't your grandfather's or your father's marijuana This will addict you. This will kill you."—US DEA Special Agent Mark Trouville, as quoted by the Associated Press.

If lying about pot has become the Feds' national pastime, then lying about the supposed dangers posed by the increased potency of cannabis is an annual tradition.

Every spring for nearly three decades, government officials and prohibitionists have taken to the airwaves alleging that today's pot is five, 10 or even 100 times more potent than the herb of yesteryear—all the while failing to explain why, if the weed of the past was so weak and innocuous, police still arrested you for it.

Of course, lawmakers and cops aren't the only ones with a flair for the dramatic when it comes to the subject of "skunk"; both pot dealers and consumers are equally likely to propagate mythic tales of the "killer bud" they sell and smoke.

The trend is hardly surprising. I mean, who among us is going to admit that they sell or smoke schwag?

But is there any truth to the oft-stated claim that today's weed is fundamentally different from your father's pot? And more importantly, is there any merit to the dire warnings that more potent herb is inherently more dangerous to the consumer? The answers may surprise you.

Pot Potency: Then and Now

Despite prohibitionist claims that the pot of the 1960s averaged under 1 percent THC—an allegation that, if true, would indicate that the entire Woodstock generation experienced nothing more than a giant placebo effect—US government researchers didn't begin measuring marijuana potency until the early 1970s, when a team of investigators at the University of Mississippi received federal approval to initiate the Potency Monitoring Project.

Early samples tested by the PMP consisted almost entirely of old, improperly stored Mexican weed, infamous for its shitty quality. Varieties of more potent herb available on the commercial market, such as sinsemilla and Thai stick, were ignored by the project. As a result, the baseline data produced by the PMP during the early to mid-'70s—during which time federal researchers absurdly claimed that pot averaged less than 1.5 percent THC—bore little resemblance to the marijuana available on the actual consumer market of the time. Yet this hopelessly incomplete and misleading data continues to be cited by prohibitionists in the reports they release.

By the 1980s, law-enforcement officials from around the nation began directing samples of confiscated pot to U-Miss for quality testing, a practice that continues to this day. As the number of samples received by the PMP increased—from

a few hundred in the early 1980s to several thousand by the mid-'90s—the reported potency of pot also began to increase, though hardly by the dramatic leaps claimed by anti-pot forces. In fact, a year-by-year assessment of PMP's published data from 1982 through 2002 indicates that pot's average THC content increased only marginally, from 4 percent to 6 percent, a jump in quality that's arguably less than the difference between a cup of tea and an espresso.

'This Is Pot 2.0'

Beginning in 2002, PMP researchers began reporting a rapid rise in average potency, from 6 percent THC in 2002 to 8.5 percent in 2006. Predictably, this reported spike led Drug Czar John Walters ("We are no longer talking about the drug of the 1960s and 1970s. This is Pot 2.0!") and his "Mini Me" at the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Nora Volkow ("This could explain why there has been an increase in the number of medical emergencies involving marijuana!"), to demand that US Department of Homeland Security raise the marijuana "terror threat level" from orange to red.

"Marijuana today is a much more serious problem than the vast majority of Americans understand," the Drug Czar warned. "If you told people that one in five of 12- to 17-year-olds who ever used marijuana in their lives need treatment, I don't think people would remotely understand it."



STONERS BEWARE!
According to the Drug Czar, the Grim Reaper awaits stoners who partake of today's deadly pot.

KILLER WEED

The anti-dope crusaders repeated their doomsday diatribes again this past summer, after the most recent PMP report charged that average pot potency had risen yet again, purportedly reaching a record high of 9.6 percent THC.

"Today's report makes it more important than ever that we get past outdated, anachronistic views of marijuana," Walters told the Associated Press, alleging that stronger weed could increase one's risk of psychological, cognitive—and most bizarrely of all—"respiratory" problems. Not to be outdone in the lack-of-credibility department, Dr. Volkow announced that more potent pot was "acutely toxic" to the user.

However, a closer review of the 2008 PMP report reveals that the supposed record increase in pot potency is more likely the result of statistical manipulation rather than any actual spike in US marijuana quality. Notably, page 12 of the U-Miss report (available online at whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/pdf/FullPotencyReports.pdf) states that the average THC content of "domestic cannabis" is, in fact, well under 5 percent—a figure that has held steady for over a decade and would hardly merit national headlines.

The PMP report also asserts that the average THC content of non-domestic pot has more than doubled in recent years, from 4 percent in 1990 to nearly 10 percent today. Yet imported marijuana comprises only a fraction of the domestic market. (According to the most recent US National Drug Intelligence Center Threat Assessment report, "Most of the marijuana available in the domestic drug markets is lower potency commercial-grade marijuana.")

Nevertheless, "non-domestic cannabis" seizures comprised nearly 70 percent of all the samples measured by the PMP in 2007—a percentage that is neither reflective of the US pot market nor indicative of the varieties of marijuana seized by law enforcement (over 98 percent of which is, ironically, 0-percent-THC ditch weed). As a result, the supposed "9.6 percent THC" average hyped by the PMP and the Drug Czar is anything but.

So Potent ... So What?

Obviously, abnormally strong strains of cannabis are available for those who want to buy them—and who are willing to pay top dollar (though, according to a recent DEA report, less than 2 percent of all pot confiscated in the US averaged over 20 percent THC). But the question still remains: Is there any truth to the Drug Czar's allegations that these high-potency strains pose a unique danger to cannabis connoisseurs?

Not a lick. In fact, just the opposite may be true.

According to numerous studies, the most significant difference between "kind bud" and schwag is that users of the former smoke far less per session than do users of the latter (much as consumers of high potency liquor drink less volume per serving than do consumers of low potency beer).

Specifically, a 1989 John Hopkins University study reported that cannabis users readily differentiate between pot strains of varying strength, taking "smaller puff and inhalation volumes and shorter puff duration for the high marijuana dose compared to the low dose." Most recently, a 2007 University of California study assessing patterns of cannabis vaporization reported that users self-regulate their pot consumption based on the drug's potency. Hence, the stronger the herb, the less consumers inhale into their lungs. You'd think the Drug Czar would be celebrating.

Moreover, unlike booze, sleeping pills or even aspirin,



OG Kush has double-digit THC but many pot lovers are stuck smoking schwag (below).

"The stronger the herb, the less consumers inhale into their lungs."

pot is remarkably nontoxic—sorry to disappoint you, Ms. Volkow—and poses no risk of fatal overdose regardless of THC content. In fact, doctors may legally prescribe a FDA-approved pill (Marinol) that contains 100 percent synthetic THC—and, curiously, nobody at the PMP or the Drug Czar's office seems particularly concerned about it. Nor at the US Food and Drug Administration: In 1999, FDA officials downgraded Marinol from a Schedule II controlled substance to a Schedule III drug, a change made largely because of its impeccable safety record.

But what about the claim—alleged most recently by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University and repeated nearly verbatim by the talking heads at CNN—that stronger pot is fueling an alarming rise in drug-treatment admissions?

As usual, the devil is in the details. Notably absent from CASA's fanciful press release—and CNN's subsequent hatchet job—is the fact that marijuana arrests have skyrocketed since the early '90s: from a modern low of 288,000 in 1991 to a record 830,000 in 2006.

What do these arrest figures have to do with marijuana-treatment admissions? Everything.

According to the most recent state and national statistics, nearly 70 percent of all individuals in drug-treatment programs for pot—and an estimated 60 percent of all adolescents enrolled in rehab for weed—are ordered there by the criminal-justice system. These numbers represent a more than 50 percent increase since 1992—during which time, the US Department of Health and Human Services acknowledges, "the proportion of [pot-treatment] admissions from [all] other referral sources declined" (emphasis added). In other words, marijuana *defendants*, not marijuana *addicts*, are driving the highly publicized spike in drug-treatment admissions.

Finally, it should be noted that some cannabis consumers actually prefer less potent weed, just as the majority of those who drink alcohol prefer beer or wine rather than 190-proof Everclear or Bacardi 151. According to one recent study, published this year in the *International Journal of Drug Policy*, marijuana consumers in Amsterdam gravitate toward pot of "mild" to "moderate" strength, even though more potent varieties are readily available. By contrast, the authors report that consumers in regions where the drug remains illegal are "more apt to feel they can never be certain of potency and [therefore] are more likely to choose stronger strains."

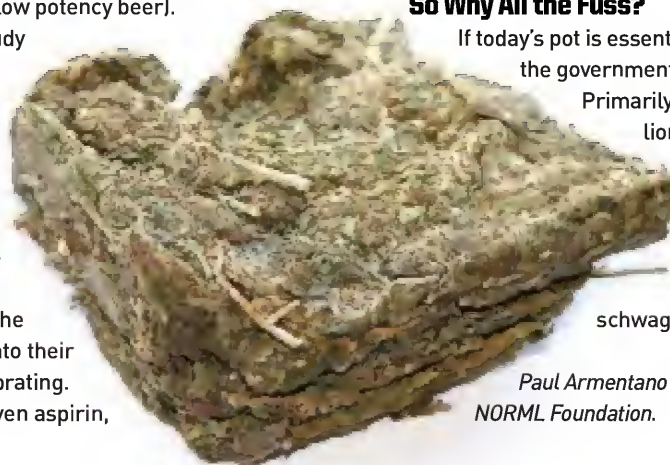
In short, it's drug *policy* rather than drug *preference* that often encourages the use of stronger pot. Consequently, if US lawmakers and bureaucrats are really concerned about the alleged health risks posed by more potent marijuana and truly wish to steer consumers away from it, they would support regulating the drug so that its potency would be readily known to the consuming public. Needless to say, no one at U-Miss, NIDA or the Drug Czar's office has suggested any such thing.

So Why All the Fuss?

If today's pot is essentially the same plant it's always been, why is the government going out of its way to claim otherwise?

Primarily to scare parents—particularly those millions of adults who experimented with marijuana without incident in the 1970s, when they were about the same age as their children are today.

In short, the Feds' latest reefer rhetoric may sound alarming, but just like schwag, it ain't nothin' to get excited about. 🌿



Paul Armentano is the Deputy Director of NORML and the NORML Foundation.



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PAUL BOOTH

DRAWING BLOOD

INTERVIEW BY DOBBY BLACK + PHOTOS BY CHRIS CUDALEY

There's no denying it: At first look, Paul Booth is a frightening presence. But in contrast to his menacing, larger-than-life appearance, the highly acclaimed and influential tattoo artist is actually a rather easygoing, warm-hearted guy. Notorious for his long waiting list, intricate black-and-gray freehand work and dark style, Booth (whom Rolling Stone dubbed the "New King of Rock Tattoos") has inked such heavy metal glunks as Pantera, Slayer, Mudvayne and Slipknot, as well as several porn stars and professional wrestlers—including, appropriately enough, the Undertaker. I first met this Dark Lord of the Ink several years ago backstage at a Slayer show, where he complimented me on a rendition of his "green man" design I had tattooed on my arm. On numerous occasions since then, I'd practically begged him for an interview, but the somewhat shy and conspiracy-minded genius always politely declined. It wasn't until recently, at an art opening at his midtown Manhattan gallery/studio Last Lines, that he finally consented. So here, for the first time, Paul Booth steps out of the shadows and speaks candidly about his love of marijuana, metal and the macabre.

How old were you when you started drawing?
I can't even remember a starting point, really. I'd always gotten my attention through art as a child. My mother swears she gave me crayons when I was a kid, and I always picked the black one out of the bunch.

What was your childhood like?
My parents split up when I was in the seventh grade. I stayed living with my mother, but I'd spend every summer with my dad out in California and Nevada. It's kind of funny because, doing this interview now, I'm thinking about back then. My dad used to dredge gold up in the mountains in this little canoe, and I remember there were always these guys on dirt bikes running past us—and my dad told me to stay away from them, because they were harvesting weed and they'd shoot me.

Was your dad cool about weed?
Oh, no, no ... he was a born-again Christian. And my mother was a Catholic. So I was raised in Christian hell.

I take it, then, that you didn't share their devotion to Christ?
Well, I spent most of my youth in Catholic school, so I grew up with a lot of abuse by nuns. The fear tactics and humiliation they used were pure evil ... complete child abuse. Then, when I was 15 years old, my grandfather—who I happened to be close to—died, and the church that he was such a devout member of refused to say his name at mass unless we paid a donation. That flipped me out; it was the straw that broke the camel's back. After that, it didn't take much for me to finally denounce Christ. That was the first time I wore a cross upside-down. I was *pissed*.

So you think it was Catholic school that led you to be drawn to dark and evil imagery?
No, the Catholic Church taught me contempt. I've always had a drive towards anything dark for as long as I can remember—it's the black-crayon thing; I was always the kid in school drawing pictures that made the teachers worry. I was a very introverted child. I don't know if I was troubled, but I'm here now—so maybe I was [*laughs*].

Who were your idols artistically?
I always took a liking to the great masters like DaVinci and such. Also H.R. Giger—when *Alien* came out, it just blew me away. But it wasn't just artists; Anton LaVey gave me a lot of inspiration through his writing. He wasn't an artist, he was ... I don't know *what* you'd call LaVey.

The Church of Satan founder? How did you get turned on to him?
One of my friends—I didn't have too many friends; I was always kind of an outcast, but nevertheless—I remember being in this friend's basement, and his older brother said he wanted to show us something cool. He reached up in the rocks, like deep up inside the wall, and he pulled out this book that was all moldy and wrinkled-up and wet. And it was *The Satanic Bible*. Soon after, I got a hold of a copy, read it and totally identified with LaVey's writings. Satanism wasn't what I thought it was—it wasn't about eating children or any of that silly shit. It was just a philosophy, and it was actually something that I could relate to. So at 15, I pretty much became a Satanist. Over the years, I kind of strayed away from it, though. I'm really an atheist at heart—I don't believe in a higher power, and I don't believe in Satan, either. But what Satan is, to me, is a symbol that represents a state of mind that doesn't quite fit into the mold. I'm on my own trip; I don't really connect to any religion or philosophy of any kind anymore.

When did art become more than just a hobby for you?


When I had to pay for weed [*laughs*]. I had to come up with money from somewhere! No, it was in high school. I became a kind of self-employed freelance illustrator—I started painting a lot of denim jackets, bikes, hotrods, murals and shit like that. But I could never pay the bills with it. So I used to sustain my art by being a repo man; I basically stole cars for a living, and that paid for everything.

How old were you when you first smoked?
I was a late bloomer ... with a lot of things. At Catholic school, there was no talk of drugs or anything. It wasn't until I hit public school, in eighth grade—I remember I was walking home one day and I found a joint between the cracks of the sidewalk. I immediately got excited and called my friends, and we all got together back in the woods and lit it up. It was just like in the movies: everybody hacking their brains out, and no one really knowing what being high was. I don't think we were.

But my daughter's mother turned me on to my first real joint in high school, when I was around 15 years old. That was back in the day of Thai sticks and sinsemilla. Shit was much more affordable then, but not as good as it is now.

Do you find pot and/or psychedelics helpful as an artist?

When it comes to hallucinogenics or weed, I value the time I'm *not* using it as much as the time I am. It's kind of a balance for me. When I do a painting, there's a time in the painting when I need to be straight, sober and analytical. Then there's a time when I need to be open, loose and spatial. That's where the weed comes in: It helps me to chill out, lose some of the anal-retentiveness that I have, and paint for the sake of painting—just let it



Tattoo legend Paul Booth fires up a skull pipe at his Last Rites studio/gallery in New York City.

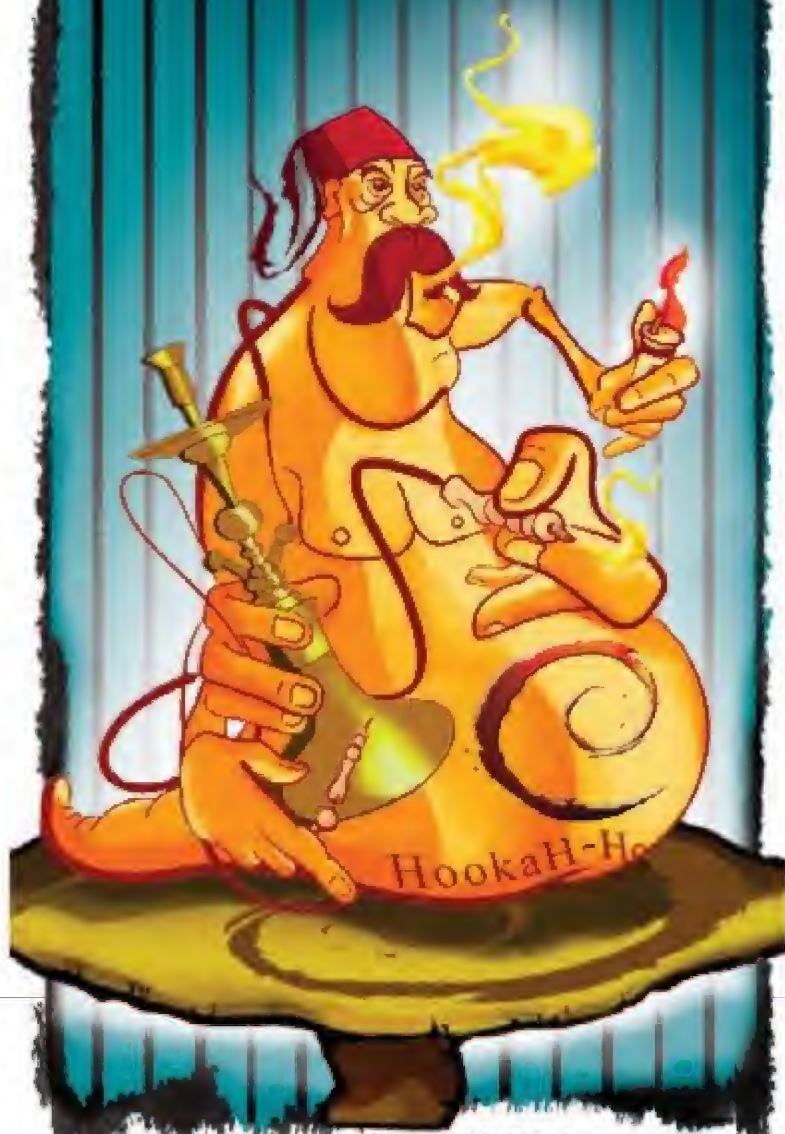
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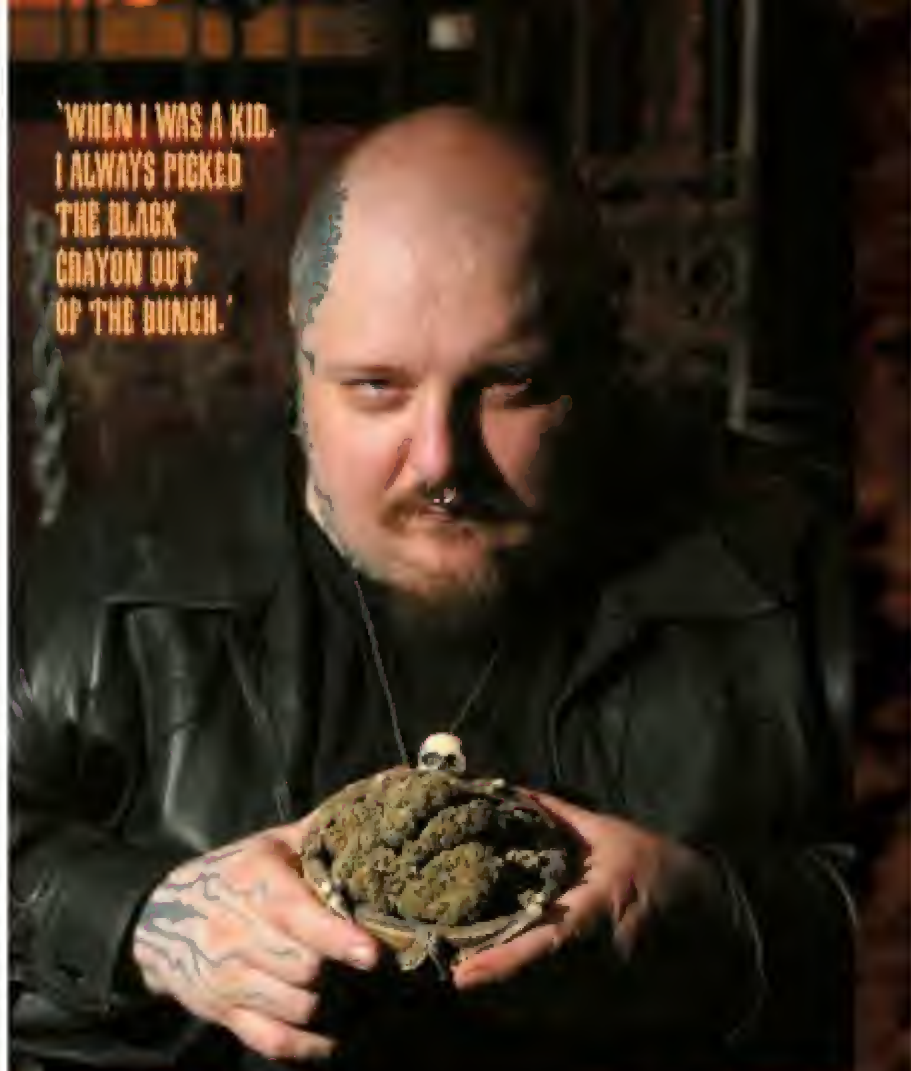
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evolve. I can't tattoo high, though, because of the technical aspect of it and the obligation to the client. Not every client is a stoner, you know?

But I definitely feel that anytime you can alter your consciousness, it's valuable. It's all research, really: If you're ever going to seek any kind of enlightenment or growth in your life—for yourself and for the people you care about—I think you need to be able to change your perspective to an objective viewpoint. I guess you can call it "triangulating": putting yourself into an alternate perspective, like standing outside of yourself and looking inward to evaluate yourself at a level that spans from the conscious to the subconscious.

Have you ever had a particular psychedelic trip that altered your thinking permanently?

I don't think there was any one trip that changed everything. I'm one of those people who never has visuals, for some reason; my mental state is what mutates. I have these crazy brainstorming—it's all about brainstorming for me. I'll start making notes or set up a recorder and talk out an idea or theory, then listen to it later when I'm straight and pick out what makes sense and what doesn't. I've always approached it in that methodical, experimental way, where it's not about partying at all—it's about growth, self-awareness, and

expanding my mental horizons to further my art more than anything else. My art is everything—it's not singled out to *just* painting, or *just* tattooing or making music. Everything in my life, I approach in an artistic way. I even find the art in business: When I make deals, I'll bring different strategies and *The Art of War* into play. That's art too, and I love it—anything that can expand the mind and make things come out better. What's the point of living if you're not pushing and exploring?

You stopping tattooing for a while, didn't you?

I'd say slowed down—I was still tattooing, but it was maybe one per week for about a year. I needed to take some time off to regroup, reinvent myself a bit. Sometimes you can't do that without stopping. I had other mediums I wanted to explore, like painting. I did a series of paintings for an art show. I had to come up with basically a dozen oil paintings in less than 10 months, and I hadn't painted in oils in like 20 months, so I took the opportunity to kick myself in the ass and start painting again.

I also put out a CD. I'm not really a musician, but all my life I've wanted to make music, so I started fucking around with my computer and my keyboard. My daughter showed me a few things about piano, and I wrote some music—

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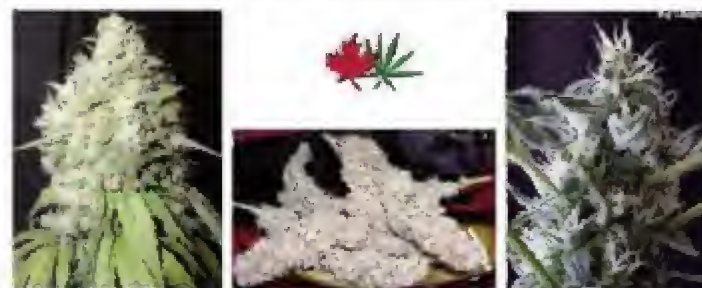
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and the songs I wrote fit together with each painting, because I worked on the music as I painted. I had my computer and keyboard on one side of my art room, and that's where I'd work on a song. When I got bored with that after an hour or two, I'd just spin my chair around and on the other side of the room would be my painting, and I'd just work on that. I'd go back and forth all day and night for months, taking a break once a week to tattoo.

Now I'm back to tattooing full-time, but I'm also getting ready to start my next series of paintings and working on my second album, which is called *Sermons*. What I'm doing is, I found a website that has thousands of hours of evangelical preaching, so I'm taking out segments and going in and editing all the words—moving them around, replacing and switching words so these guys will sound like they're ranting about Satan instead of God. Yes, it *is* as much fun as it sounds [laughs]. Then I'm laying those new preachings I've created into a dark, ambient sound bed. That's what I do: real dark, chilled-out music. I was high when I made it, so weed helps when listening to it for sure.

You're friends with many famous musicians, most notably Slayer guitarist Kerry King ... ever thought of collaborating with him?

I'd love to, but I don't have the balls. I'm friends with him on a different level. I'm a friend as a fellow appreciator of art and all things dark, but I'm a fanboy when it comes to the music: He's a musical god, and I'm a wannabe that plays the keyboard with one finger. I don't feel I'm on a level where I can ask someone like Kerry to work with me on a project. I just couldn't do it to the guy.

Who else have you toured with besides Slayer?

My first metal tour was in '94, with Pantera, Sepultura and Biohazard. After that, I did Ozzfest every year, Family Values a few times ... I've stopped going out with bands over the past few years, though, because I'm getting a little too old for that shit. Living on the road is fun and all for a while, but tattooing on the bus sucks. When you have to stop working every five minutes because the musician has to do a meet-and-greet or an interview, it gets very frustrating. But I can't say it's permanent, because I do miss it sometimes.

Let's dispel the crazy rumors and set the record straight: Exactly how long is your waiting list?

It's pretty ridiculous—I've heard some people say it's five years! I love the rumors, but the reality is, it floats around two years. The hourly-rate rumors are the funniest, though—I've even heard I'm \$1,500 an hour. And I'm like, "Wow, that'd be killer"—but no. My rate is up there with the other big guys, I guess, but I work really fast; what the average tattooer does in two or three hours, I get done in one. Hourly rates become insignificant when you're working on big projects—especially if you're quicker. I can sleeve a whole arm in 10 hours or so if I'm doing freehand.

And finally ... hypothetically speaking, if someone were to offer you a bribe of some really killer bud, could they cut the line?

[Laughs] How do I answer that? Let's see ... there's the good Paul, and there's the *bad* Paul—that's your answer right there. 🍀

Satisfy your morbid curiosity—for info on Paul's art, music and other projects, visit darkimages.com.



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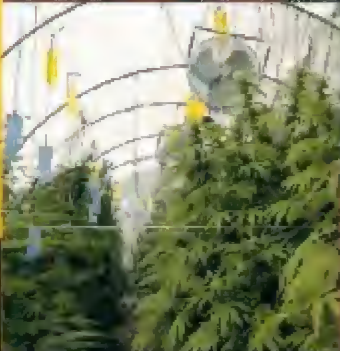
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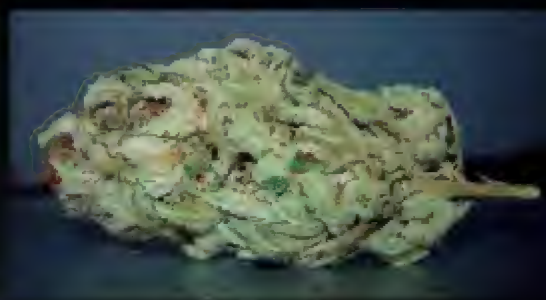


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AK-47
This little guy ended up blowing us away.
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POT FOR POPS

(Above) This is my first year growing for my dad, who just got his medical marijuana card.—TheGreenScotsman



DANK ON DECK

(left) My outdoor self-made bubbleponic system with a plant at 13 weeks old.—TheGreenScotsman

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BY NICO ESCONDIDO & DAN SKYE

EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

Welcome to the first-ever page of our new mini-section, which is wholly devoted to medicinal strains, news, uses, developments, activism, politics ... everything and anything, really, that is related to medical marijuana. This is your new *Cannabis Clinic!*

ALL ABOUT CANNABINOIDS

There are over 65 active cannabinoids in marijuana; the most prevalent of these are tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), cannabidiol (CBD) and cannabitol (CBN). These cannabinoids have received the most study because they're the primary components in *Cannabis sativa* L. with medicinal properties.

From a medical standpoint, THC is thought to be neuro-protective, meaning that it prevents mechanisms within the nervous system from degeneration. Additionally, THC has been proven in clinical trials to ease moderate pain. High levels of THC will contribute to strong, clear-headed and energetic highs. The highest levels of THC known to exist in marijuana hover around 29%.

CBD is a non-psychoactive cannabinoid that is thought to increase some of the effects of THC while decreasing other ones. (For example, it is thought that CBD helps to inhibit any THC-induced psychosis that might affect some users.) Medically speaking, CBD appears to relieve a long list of symptoms, including nausea, anxiety, convulsions and inflammation. CBD has a more pronounced impact on the body, which is why it is often used medicinally for pain and muscle relaxation. CBD produces more of a dreamlike, stoned high, where the mind is dulled and the body feels relaxed or tired. Extreme levels of CBD in marijuana would be approximately 1.8%, with the lowest levels falling near 0.3%.

CBN has fewer effects than THC or CBD. It is primarily found in marijuana as THC ages and breaks down. There is very little of it found in fresh cannabis, and it is only mildly psychoactive.



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"This is the most medicinal strain here!" someone was saying—a rather large claim considering the company of buds in the sampling room. But lo and behold, it was true. This *indica*-dominant strain, now known to the world as Crimea Blue, has a high cannabidiol count of 1.2%, which many believe is the key to a good medicinal strain (see sidebar). The THC count is no joke either, with the Blue hitting 18%.

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WILL IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

In late August, California Attorney General Jerry Brown released what he called a "road map" for medical marijuana in California. The 11-page document basically requires those who sell medical cannabis to operate as nonprofit collectives or cooperatives, and also that the marijuana they sell be grown by state-certified patients or caregivers, which will make it easier for the police to arrest "illegal" marijuana growers. However, federal law still trumps state law in the US, and the Feds have shown no inclination to follow Brown's guidelines.

Meanwhile, the DEA's raids on medical dispensaries continue unabated. For a crash course on how the DEA operates, here's an account from the *Los Angeles Times* of a recent raid on Organica Collective, a medical-marijuana dispensary in Culver City, CA: "Witnesses described the DEA agents as removing computers, medicine and money, and using a steel cylinder battering ram to get into the upstairs bedrooms. When they left four hours later, all that remained was trash, counters strewn with open and empty glass jars, piles of receipts thrown on the ground,

upturned couch cushions, bits of marijuana on the edges of counters, and an ATM with its doors torn open and emptied. An outdoor vegetable garden had plants uprooted, along with marijuana plants removed by the agents."

CANNABIS: THE ANTI-BACTERIA

Who knows how long it will take before the world's governments accept—let alone acknowledge—the mounting evidence of pot's remarkable medical applications. In the past year alone, research studies have shown that cannabis has tremendous capacity for relieving pain and stemming the growth of cancer cells, and it has also been shown to be equal to (or better than) pharmaceuticals in treating psychological disorders.

Recently, a study published in the *Journal of Natural Products* focused on a new application for the five most common cannabinoids. Research shows that these compounds, in the future, can be used against common bacterial strains that have become resistant to several classes of drugs. In the study, headed up by Giovanni Appendino of the University of the Eastern Piedmont in Italy, cannabis was shown to be effective in combating several of these multi-resistant bacterial strains.

Although the researchers admit they don't know how the cannabinoids work against bacteria, they would like to determine whether higher or lower THC levels affect these results.

SATIVEX MOVES FORWARD

Sativex, the world's first pharmaceutical derived from the cannabis plant, took a step closer to being licensed in the UK following the release of a recent study. 42 people with multiple sclerosis found that the oral spray, developed by GW Pharmaceuticals, was effective in dealing with chronic pain.

Sativex has been approved in Canada for the symptomatic relief of neuropathic pain in multiple sclerosis, and more recently for the relief of pain due to cancer. In the UK, its status as an unlicensed medicine enables doctors to prescribe the product to individual patients who they believe may benefit from its use. ✨

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TROPICAL KIEF SORBET

Enjoy a taste straight from the hot, high summer.

Now that wintertime is fast approaching, I miss sweating through the steamy summer days of July. It was so hot and dry then that I swear my bong didn't work—the water kept evaporating! Back on one of those hellish days, I had the idea of escaping to a cool tropical oasis, and I let my taste buds lead me into the kitchen. The new ice-cream machine sat waiting, and I knew it was time to overcome my fear of kitchen machinery and get down to business. And I wouldn't have to turn on the oven! The realization that I couldn't burn down the house while making ice cream led to a wonderful sugary epiphany. I gathered pineapple, peaches, grapes and apples from the fridge and decided that I would make sorbet—a fancy word for frozen fruit juice.



Fruity kief treat

I needed to add some cannabis goodness, but what could you put in a smooth, creamy sorbet? Ah, yes ... kief! I always collect and save the trichome crystals from the tray beneath my rolling screen for a special event, and here they served an important purpose: to bake and then freeze my overheated brain. The syrup preparation, as it turned out, was simple indeed: just 12 ounces of sugar dissolved in 16 ounces of water. To ensure the success of my high intentions, I added kief to both the sugar and the fruit puree. In order to create this tainted treat, a food processor is necessary to refine your fruit down to sorbet. After all the fruit is pureed, a quality strainer is necessary if you want a less pulpy consistency. Much like picking seeds out of schwag, straining the pulp from the fruit puree is tedious, but it's worth it in the end. Combine the syrup with your kief juice and strain it again to assure the proper blend, and then it's time to shine! Pour your fancy, fruity kief juice into the ice-cream maker and walk away for 45 minutes. *Bam!* You have a sweetly kiefalicious miracle. The preparation time is less than an hour, which is quicker than it takes my local dealer to get weed to my house. My mind is already blown thinking of the 31 flavors (and more!) that I plan to make with this process next year. My sugar fetish has finally hooked up with my weed fetish to create a sweet, stony, tropical and chill child of necessity that gets me so high I feel like I've gone ice-skating in the summertime.—Irie

SWEET KIEF SORBET TREAT

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Equipment: Ice cream maker | 2 peaches, pits removed |
| 4 cups water | 2 apples, chopped with seeds removed |
| 1 cup sugar | 16 grapes |
| 1/2 a pineapple, chopped with skin removed | 4 grams kief |

Directions: Set the stove-top burner to medium high, find a medium-sized pot, add four cups of water, and stir in one cup of sugar and one gram of kief. Heat for 7-10 minutes or until the sugar looks light caramel in the water. Refrigerate until chilled for better results.

Use a food processor to puree the chopped pineapple, peaches, apples and grapes. Strain until juice is no longer present and toss out the pulp (or add to your compost). Add 3 grams of kief to the strained juice. Strain again to ensure that the kief flows through the screen and doesn't get stuck! Pour your final mixture into the ice-cream maker and come back in 45 minutes. Scoop and enjoy! Stones 8. 🌿

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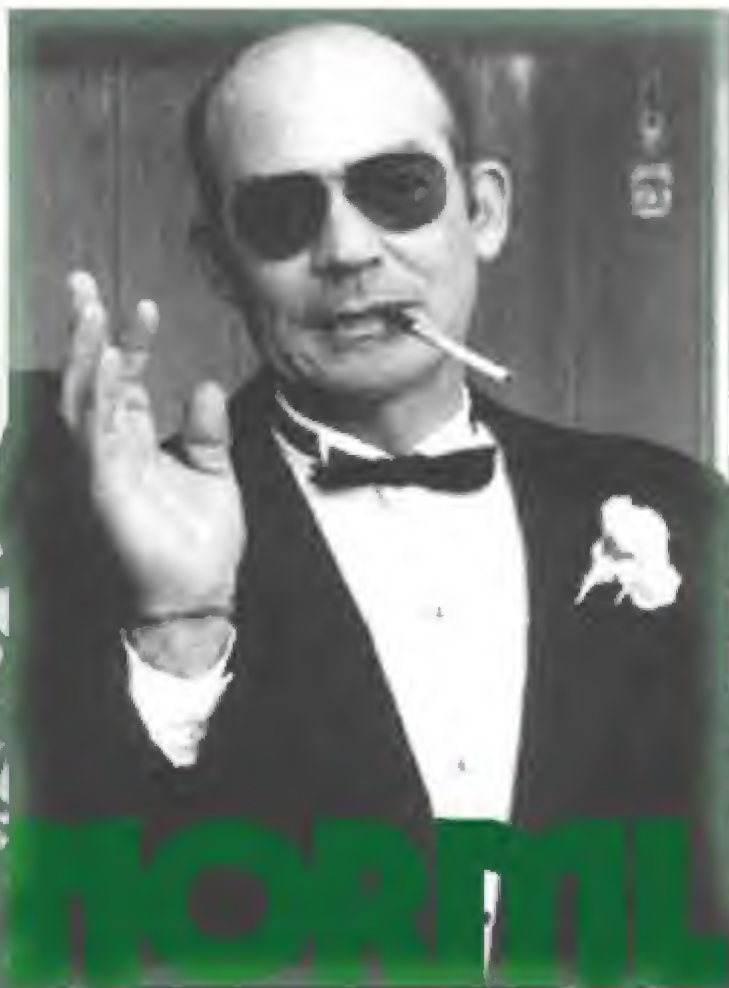
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TURNCOATS IN THE DRUG WAR

"The lie tastes sweet in the beginning but bitter in the end; the truth tastes bitter at the beginning and sweet in the end."—Buddha

Recent media reports have focused on a number of former drug warriors who have radically changed their views. Take the case of the United Kingdom's former drug czar, Julian Critchley, the director of the Anti-Drug Coordination Unit. In a recent BBC World Service interview, Critchley insisted: "I'm not saying drugs should be decriminalized because it would be fun if we could all get stoned with impunity. I'm saying that we've tried minimizing harm through a draconian legal policy. It is now clear that enforcement and supply-side interventions are largely pointless. They haven't worked."

Even more revealing was this comment from Critchley: "I think what was truly depressing about my time in the civil service was that the professionals I met from every sector held the same view: The illegality of drugs causes far more problems for society and the individual than it solves. Yet publicly, all those people were forced to repeat the mantra that the government would be 'tough on drugs,' even though they all knew that the policy was causing harm."

Here in the States, according to *The Hill*, David Krahl—the former deputy director of the Drug Free America Foundation, an anti-cannabis group—actually volunteered this past summer to testify to Congress in support of federal medical-marijuana legislation. "Being away from the DFAF allowed me an opportunity to take a fresh look at the issue," he said in a letter to Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), a sponsor



Former UK drug czar Julian Critchley sees the light.

of one such bill in Congress. "I don't have skin in the game anymore. In our nation today, we need less interference by the federal government on an issue such as this."

Amen! Welcome to the team, brother Krahl! Of course, the current anti-cannabis spokesman for the DFAF, John Pastuovic, was quick to minimize his fellow drug

warrior's change of heart: "I don't believe one person changing their position gives any credibility to the other side on this."

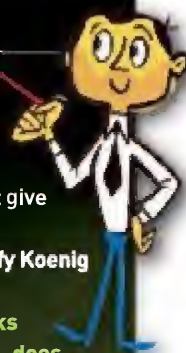
In another development, Libertarian Party presidential candidate Bob Barr and former Office of National Drug Control Policy senior staff member Barbara Roberts have recently been hired by drug-law reform groups, which means they'll now both be serving as *pro-cannabis* lobbyists. Such a thing would've been unheard of 10 or 20 years ago.

There are other voices in the fray, too. The group Law Enforcement Against Prohibition (LEAP) is an amalgam of current, former and retired law enforcement officers, prosecutors and prison officials who seek to radically reform the very institutions that provided them with lifelong employment and retirement benefits. LEAP is one of the fastest growing and most effective drug-policy reform groups in the US.

In the coming months, prohibitionists will need to confront the reality that the government's misguided war on cannabis consumers is attracting more—not less—organized opposition every day.—Allen St. Pierre, Executive Director of NORML.

Visit norml.org or call (888) 67-NORML. Also, visit leap.cc.

Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch, What's this new weight-loss pill that's supposed to be the opposite of marijuana? Does it give you the anti-munchies?

Tuffy Koenig

Hi Tuffy, Rimonabant, a drug that blocks the cannabinoid receptor CB1, does help people take off the pounds if used in conjunction with diet and exercise. As you might guess, it blocks the same receptor that marijuana activates, so it seems to decrease appetite—but it also bums folks out and gives them an upset stomach. I can't recommend this one. Eat right, exercise, and love yourself the way you are!

I see ads claiming that marijuana is five times as nasty as cigarettes. Then I see news reports saying that marijuana doesn't cause lung cancer. What's up?

Mary Pulmo

Hi Mary, Tobacco smoke and marijuana smoke contain the same irritants, so folks who hold in lung-buster hits get more nasty particles in their lungs. This is what generated all the "one joint equals five cigarettes" hype. But studies of thousands of people have shown that smoking marijuana doesn't lead to lung cancer the way that smoking tobacco does. Unlike THC, nicotine increases tumor growth and messes up the process that gets rid of injured lung cells. Still, marijuana can lead people to cough and wheeze, so a vaporizer is worth the cash. Breathe easy!

Does alcohol counteract the effects of weed?

Avery

Hi Avery, It appears that alcohol actually makes people more sensitive to some of THC's effects in laboratory studies. I wouldn't recommend using them together, since my own research reveals that their combined use is more likely to lead to problems. Turns out folks who get high a lot are more likely to report marijuana-dependence symptoms if they also consume 21 drinks or more per week. Interestingly, folks who don't drink a lot are less likely to report dependence symptoms, even if they get high every day.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of *Understanding Marijuana* and *The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at 420research@gmail.com.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

ACADEMIC ADVOCATE

A Berkeley professor researches the dispensary scene.



Dr. Amanda Reiman

The University of California at Berkeley's Dr. Amanda Reiman has been researching and advocating drug-policy reform for the past decade. Her numerous guest lectures—on such topics as medical cannabis, drug policy and political propaganda—are very far removed from her upbringing in a "small conservative town in Indiana that was very anti-drug and very pro-DARE."

Reiman states: "Once I got out of high school, I started to realize that drugs were much more complex than 'Just Say No.' I decided to study psychology. What I couldn't understand was why no one in research or government seemed to care about finding out the truth about drug education, use and prevention. I decided that I would get the education I needed to change that, to move past the propaganda and study drugs from a scientific perspective."

The result was her doctoral dissertation, "Cannabis Care: Medical Marijuana Facilities as Health Service Providers," the first comprehensive academic study on the subject.

"Research on dispensaries is important, because other medical-cannabis states need best-practice guidelines so that they can develop evidence-based dispensary models," Reiman notes. "I was surprised just how much patients depend on their dispensary—not just for medicine, but for support, companionship, entertainment, social services, referrals, and even free food and drink. For many people, they are a lifeline."

The drug-policy community can count itself fortunate to have a new generation of committed and enlightened academics like Amanda Reiman on our side as we work towards legalizing cannabis.

—Carlos Castillo, NORML Outreach & Chapter Coordinator

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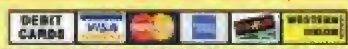
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EASY VAPE



HOT BOX



New vaporizers are flooding the market, competing to create a buzz among stoners. But the real question is: Can they create a better buzz *for* stoners?

Story & photos by Dan Skye

VAPORIZE YOU



VAPOR TOWER



iVAPE



VOLCANO



AROMED



MT FUJI



VAPOR OXYGEN 2.0



AROMED

Handcrafted in Germany, the AroMed 4.0 is a precise vaporizer that allows the user to view the pot as it heats. The AroMed 4.0 has a hot-air source of undeniable purity: an ultraviolet-free halogen lightbulb controlled by a precise microprocessor, plus an additional water filter. The glass herb holder allows users to watch extraction while inhaling. It's a well-designed device that nerds will especially love because they can view the vaporization process under lights. Zowie! The AroMed 4.0 can be filled with more than one dose, and users can adjust the inhalation to suit their preference without in-between switch-offs. *Gotvape.com, \$439*

ASSELF

VAPMAN



EASY VAPE

Outstanding value and efficiency is found in the Easy Vape. It features incredibly quick preparation and delivers impressively smooth, heady hits via glass-tipped whips. The Easy Vape comes with an advanced digital LCD display and controls. It's lightweight and small, but extremely powerful and precise, with a long-lasting ceramic heating element. *Vaporizergiant.com, \$149.99*

Capitalism creates competition—but not necessarily better products. A popular item may generate innovations and imitations, but there's no guarantee that commercial variations on a successful principle will benefit consumers. Nowhere is this truer than in the land of vaporizers, where knock-offs are numerous and steeply priced, poorly designed pieces seem to be the norm.

The process of vaporization is basically this: The active compounds in cannabis are heated until they boil off in a vapor, which the user inhales either from a tube or a mouthpiece attached to a bag that stores the vapor as it's extracted. A number of studies have confirmed that, health-wise, the process is superior to smoking because a number of harmful byproducts like carbon monoxide and tar are eliminated, making it ideal for medical-marijuana patients with respiratory ailments. Also, patients can administer regulated doses, which means it will also stretch your stash.

But remember, you'll pay dearly. All vaporizers are ridiculously overpriced, partly because entrepreneurs are looking for an immediate return on their investment, but also because cannabis consumers haven't balked at the steep prices, even though we should.

Still, if you, the stoner consumer, have a few extra bills to spend and want to ensure that the vapor-delivery device you purchase is efficient and reliable, our blow-by-blow reviews might just lead you to a meaningful, long-lasting relationship.

For our purposes, a half-ounce of Jack Herer was acquired to allow HIGH TIMES staffers the chance to fairly assess the merits of each vaporizer in our testing laboratories. A Vaporizer Manager (VM) with proven expertise in the field of vaporology (and the patience to thoroughly read instructions) was appointed. Herewith, the good, the bad and the ugly from our performance tests:

HAPPY VAPPY

Not a bad choice: It's a simple, stable unit that delivers smooth, strong hits, though you'll have to use some lungpower. Happy Vappy comes in a few different colors, which is nice—but should a heating element that plugs into a wall and a plastic-straw attachment really be this expensive? *Happyvappy.com, \$219*

HERBAL AIRE

It takes a bit long for the vapor bag to fill, but we had no complaints about its effective delivery system, basically a sippy-type straw. The plastic console and Teflon straw may be a turn-off for some, but there's no doubt that it's easy to use. Herbal Aire is a cheap yet able imitation of the Volcano, which has come to be viewed as the Ferrari of vaporizers, but it's hardly in the same league. *Vaporizergiant.com, \$249.99*



HERBAL AIRE

HOT BOX

The Hot Box is exactly that—a box. Or a cube. The staff argued about this distinction throughout the 15 minutes that the Hot Box requires to reach optimal temperature. But all of the participants liked the unit (available in a variety of designs), which provides smooth, tasty hits bereft of harshness. Our Hot Box

was furnished with a glass “steamroller” attachment, which some considered aesthetic and others described as “unwieldy” and “breakable”—which it definitely is. Also, the steamroller costs extra. A tube or whip will do just as well.

Hotboxvapors.com, \$249. Steamroller \$110

iVape

The burnished wood console of the iVape is attractive, like an old TV from the '50s. Unfortunately, its reception is similar. The tubes and connections don't fit as tightly as necessary, and with no heating-adjustment knob or digital readout, it's hard to know when your hit is ready. Overall, there seems to be “a lot of room for error,” according to the VM. You get what you pay for.

www.drgreens.com, \$130

Mt. Fuji

We did a Google search, but found nothing on the Mt. Fuji vaporizer. Good thing: Maybe everybody already knows it's a piece of junk. Bad vapor bags, bad fittings, bad heating. An exercise in frustration at every level. It may look like the Volcano, but it's dormant in every respect. An overpriced lemon—if you see it, walk away.

\$399

Super Vapezilla

One of our favorites: It looks like an expensive car radio, it's made with lightweight solid aluminum, and it features an outstanding ceramic heating element with an accurate, real-time temperature readout as you vaporize. “Responsive” was the operative word here. Super Vapezilla is as slick and sleek as they come. The experts on staff called it “the best box-and-whip system” on the market, and they should know—they're into S&M.

Vapezilla.com, \$550



HAPPY VAPPY



VAPIR ONE

VAPIR ONE

A unanimous thumbs-down! This handheld vaporizer smells positively toxic, with an industrial odor so off-putting and noxious that only a few participants would even come near it, much less take a hit off it. You can use it with a tube instead, but that still means you're in its immediate proximity. It's got a digital temperature readout, if that makes any difference.

Vaporizergiant.com, \$149.99

VAPIR OXYGEN 2.0

No better than the Vapir One. Again, the foul smell is an instant buzzkill—and that's before you even take a hit. Those who did try this handheld device made faces that bespoke its ickiness and noted a rancid, plastic aftertaste. Just say no.

Vaporizers.ca \$124.99



VM3

VAPMAN

It may be small, but it's hardly “discreet,” as the website describes it. Why? It's packaged inside a yellow egg. (“Oh, that's just my egg, officer.”) You light the heating device, then suck on a white straw-like tube. It comes with a torch; lighters won't work with it. It's a bit ungainly and takes time to load, light and inhale. Stick with a joint if you want discretion. Still, our intrepid VM did stoke the tiny VapMan sufficiently to induce a mind-altering vaporization experience. So it works okay, but it's way overpriced.

Vaporstore.com, \$144.95

VAPOR TOWER

Everybody remarked on the classic, elegant look; unfortunately, it's a case of style over substance. The heating element fails to heat the pot thoroughly and must be checked repeatedly. Throughout the judging process, participants were unable to take proper hits, as evidenced by the frantic sucking action engaged in by everyone who sampled a tube.

Vaporstore.com, \$199

VM3

Battery-operated and rechargeable, the VM3 is one of the best handheld vaporizers on the market. It features a concealable mouthpiece, a state-of-the-art lithium-ion battery, a temperature-control unit, built-in safety features and ergonomic design. It's compact, easy to use and looks like a cell phone. Best of all, it works—divinely!

Volatizer.com, \$499.95

VOLCANO

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Thevolcanovaporizer.com, \$669 🌟

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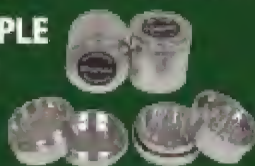
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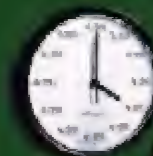
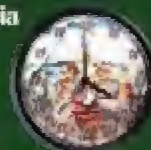
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Price: \$50

Contact: gotvape.com

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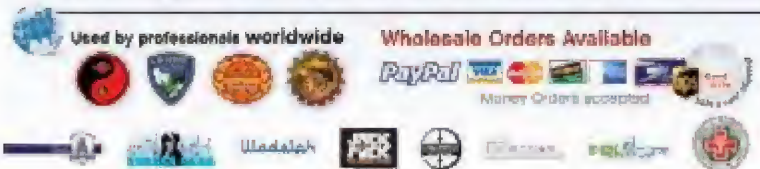
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JORGE'S RX

ALL YOU NEED TO GROW

ANSWERS & PHOTOS BY JORGE CERVANTES

This G-13 x Black Widow was grown in Gypsy Nirvana's seed-production room a few years back. The strain combination yields one huge central bud and several large lower ones.





Growing under plastic is an option for fall and winter. This wet-weather crop of Power Plant was harvested at the end of October.

LEAVES AND RESIN

While “jonesing” for a buzz, I clipped some fan leaves from a plant that had only recently begun to bud. I know it was silly (and tasted bad), but it was something to smoke on an otherwise dreary day. However, to my amazement, I did catch a small buzz, though it didn’t last long. My wife claims it was all in my head (no pun intended). I swear I got high, but when I did some research on THC and cannabis, it didn’t seem likely that I could have. So what did I feel? Is there a small amount of THC in young plants? Was it some other chemical?

*Wildeyedwerewolf
Via Internet*

Dear Wildeyedwerewolf,
Yes, leaves do contain THC—it isn’t much, but they do have a little. Both small seedlings and young vegetative leaves have very low levels of cannabinoids, including THC, the active ingredient in marijuana that gets you high. The longer a plant grows, the greater the accumulation of resin on the leaves. Small leaves that grow around the buds are often packed with resin. So it really depends on from where you plucked them and how far the plant was into the flowering stage. Large fan leaves growing near the bottom of the plant won’t be as potent as the leaves halfway up. However, all of the leaves should be fully developed before you start comparing them.

The amount of THC and other cannabinoids that you get from leaves will be minimal, but if you smoke enough of them, you can cop a buzz.

If you don’t smoke tobacco, then smoking a big joint of leaves may also produce a feeling of lightheadedness that could intensify your high.

Keep in mind, though, that trying to quick-dry your leaves can also create problems. To dry your leaves properly, set them in a warm, dark, dry place overnight. If you’re in a hurry, you can also put them in the microwave on a low-power setting for a few minutes—by keeping the power low, you won’t cause the volatile resins in the trichome glands to evaporate.

Mila from the Pollinator in Amsterdam has turned harvested leaves into kilos of “pollen” to be pressed into hash. The Pollinator is used to tumble dry, often chilled cannabis leaves in a drum made from fine mesh. The resin glands are knocked from the leaves in the process and fall through the sieve, collecting on the bottom. The result, known as “pollen” in the Netherlands, is then gathered up and pressed into pieces of hash. Good stuff!

MAKING FEMINIZED SEEDS

I want to learn about manually pollinating a plant to create feminized and/or regular seeds. I read an article about it and understand the process, but I don’t know how to gather the pollen and use it. Can you give me step-by-step instructions? I’m planning my second grow and don’t wanna buy seeds anymore.

*Ken
Via Internet*

Dear Ken,
You can produce all-female or “feminized” seeds

by obtaining pollen from an individual female plant and fertilizing it with another female plant.

There are two simple ways to have female plants produce male pollen. The first is the easiest: Find a female plant that has produced a few latent intersex (hermaphrodite) male flowers. The pollen should be carefully collected from the male flowers once they’re mature. (Flowers are often well past peak development when pollen is collected.) The problem with this method is that subsequent generations will have the same latent intersex tendencies. Stress also brings on intersex tendencies earlier.

Or you can chemically induce female plants to form male flowers. This is done with the application of products such as eliteXelite or gibberilic acid (which is dangerous and quite unpopular), or a silver thiosulfate solution (STS) made from chemicals commonly used in photography. You can also find a product called Stamen-it!, which induces male flowers.

If you’re interested in using STS, there’s a specific post you should look for by typing “eliteXelite” into the search engine at cannabis.community.forums.ozstoners.com. The post will tell you exactly how to make the solution, which is then applied to plants to induce sex reversal from female to male and also to create male pollen-bearing flowers on female plants. The technique is simple: Pre-flowering female cannabis plants are sprayed with diluted STS and then induced to flower with a 12/12-hour day/night schedule. The pollen-bearing

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JORGE'S RX

The fan leaves are yellowing on this plant from a lack of nitrogen. The grower increased the phosphorus and potassium dosage while decreasing nitrogen. Buds swell and fan leaves yellow ... no problem!

male flowers can be harvested in 35 to 40 days on most strains.

Once you've collected the pollen, it's ready to apply. Be sure to keep the pollen dry and stored in a cool, dark place. (Moisture and light are pollen's enemies.) Use a small artist's paintbrush to wisp up a little of the pollen and then carefully brush it on the pistils of a strong, stable, flowering female. Continue this process until you've pollinated enough buds. Make sure there are no drafts in the room; the air should be very calm so as to not blow the pollen around. The seeds produced by the pollinated female will grow into all-female plants.

STRESSED PLANTS

I've got your book and both of your DVDs. A few of my plants have yellowing fan leaves going almost to the top of the plant as well as purple petioles. Some of the leaves are curling. The center vein on the leaf looks good but curls downward to the leaf margin, and each blade has two "speed bumps." I've flushed some of them with three parts water to one part soil and haven't seen any difference.

*Chris M
 Via Internet*

Dear Chris,
 Yellowing leaves are a sign of several problems. One thing is clear: The plant is stressed and not able to support the older-growth leaves, so it's started to shed them. The first big reason leaves turn yellow is because of a lack of water; the other is a nutrient imbalance in the growing medium. You could be under-watering your plants, or there could be a nutrient buildup in the soil, locking other important nutrients as well as water out of the roots.

Purple petioles definitely suggest a lack of phosphorus. This is evidence that there's a nutrient imbalance. Leaves that are curling downward

are a sign of moisture deficiency and nutrient toxicity in the soil. These problems could also be compounded when temperatures dip below 50°F.

Flushing your plants' medium is the best thing you can do. Always use good water with a low ppm/EC. Depending on how bad the problem is, you should see a definite improvement in one week—two at the most. You can also flush your plants a second time. If you do, flush with a diluted 5% to 10% fertilizer mix. You should see new, stronger growth with the leaf symptoms diminishing. If the yellow leaves didn't dry out too much, they could even green back up.

BLACK BETTY

How do I tell when to harvest? Also, I have a fungus or something eating my plants—there are little spots on the leaves, and the plants are growing slowly. What should I do?

*Bugsie
 Via Internet*

Dear Bugsie,
 Using a 10x to 30x loupe or a hand-held video microscope will make it much easier both to identify pests and check the resin glands. First, you need to determine how many days your plants have been flowering. Most strains should be at peak ripeness seven to nine weeks after you induce flowering with a 12/12-hour day/night schedule. Start checking them closely after seven weeks, especially the color of the pistils, which will turn from white to brown or brownish-red as the flower tops ripen. The ratio of darker pistils is also an indicator of peak ripeness, but it's not as accurate as looking at the actual resin glands with a magnifying glass or microscope. Look for well-formed glands with a small post and a ball on the top. There are several possible times to harvest. Early harvest (for the most potent THC) is when the trichomes start to turn milky white to amber. At peak harvest, resin glands can stay translucent

but often start to turn creamy white after the trichomes are fully formed. At late harvest, the balls on some of the glands are deformed or no longer intact; other glands remain intact, with a mild to noticeable darkening of resin.

When dealing with pests, the first step is to identify the problem, then take appropriate action. Spot spider mites and other insects with the help of a 10x loupe. Inspect leaf undersides for insect movement and damage. Once the pest is identified, spray the leaf undersides with a good miticide/insecticide such as pyrethrum in aerosol form. My favorite is Whitmire's Exclude. Turn the plants to the side and apply the aerosol 12 inches from leaf undersides. Repeat at five- to 10- day intervals.

My new favorite way to identify mites is to use a microscope that you can hook up to your computer, allowing you to see these minute pests big-time on your computer monitor. I got one at blackbetty420.com, and this tool is great! You can video the pests that are eating your plants and use it to help monitor and eradicate pest populations. It also works for discerning peak harvest! You can take still shots or videos of the trichomes on your buds and flash them magnified onto the computer screen. The graphic files can be saved and used over and over. This is a great way to examine the trichome glands to determine whether your buds are in the perfect condition to pick. Definitely a site worth hitting!

SHORT PLANTS

I am a huge fan! How do you keep plants short when growing in small areas? I have seen you advise repeatedly not to "pinch" the tops. Look forward to hearing from you.

Quickflite
Via Internet

Dear Quickflite,
Grow female clones and induce flowering with a 12/12-hour day/night schedule when they are eight to 12 inches tall. They will start to show visible signs of flowering within two weeks. As they progress through the flowering stage, plants will elongate 12 to 18 inches. The clones should be well rooted and growing well, otherwise they will flower poorly.

You can also look for specific strains that don't get super tall. *Indica*-dominant plants don't grow as tall as *sativa*-dominant ones. Another option is to grow Lowrider, one of the only *ruderalis*-dominant strains available. You will have to grow this plant from seed because it starts to flower 25 to 30 days after sprouting regardless of the hours of light it receives. (You can give it 24 hours of light per day and it will still start flowering within a month!) Lowrider finishes two months later and tops out at about 18 inches.


BUDS 20% BIGGER

I bought your *Marijuana Horticulture* "medical bible," and it shows a 20% increase in bud size after adding sugar. Can you tell me how much sugar to add to five gallons of water and when to use it? Five gallons should be able to soak up a cup of molasses.

Riley
Via Internet

Dear Riley,
The sugar is effective because it feeds the little

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Feminized seed is the most important sector of seed production today. Most of the seeds sold now are feminized.

microbes and bacteria in the soil that, in turn, make the uptake of nutrients more efficient. Many organic liquid fertilizers contain molasses. This little trick works well in organic soils that are full of life. Drop a couple of tablespoons of molasses in a quart of water. Stir it until the molasses has dissolved. Water organic soils with this mix once every couple of weeks through flowering. You will see your buds put on more weight because the roots are able to take on more nutrients, which is spurred by the abundant bacteria and microbe activity. My favorite sweet is molasses, but you can also use fructose. But be careful not to overdose organic soil with molasses or it will draw scavengers such as ants.

TROPICAL GARDEN

I'm from Terra do Samba, Brazil, and I've read your articles and seen your DVD. I've tried to grow indoors in a closet, but down here it's extremely hot, and even though I changed my 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamp to a 250-watt HPS using as much ventilation as possible, my plants still wilt. So I've decided to grow only outdoors.

I smoke a lot—about a hundred grams a month. I'm growing outdoors during the day, and at night I bring my plants in under the 250-watt HPS for the vegetative stage so I can get them to flower faster. Is this okay? What do you recommend for wattage and types of lamps in this case?

Help me, my friend, 'cause I can't smoke any more of this black-market weed, and I can't wait for the right seasons to flower and harvest. I just wanna speed up the growing!

*Joes.Game
Via Internet*

Dear Joes.Game,
Grow clones and keep them small. The less time plants are growing, the fewer problems they will have. Grow clones indoors and move them outdoors during the day so they get as much light as

possible. Once the clones are a foot tall, move them to your outdoor garden. Your location in the Southern Hemisphere ensures that you will have close to the perfect 12/12-hour day/night schedule necessary for cannabis to flower quickly. If you produce 30 clones a month, you can set out new clones every day, every week or every month—the only limitation is the amount of garden space you have available. If you harvest 50 grams from each plant every 60 days, you will have 1,500 grams (3.2 pounds) of great bud to smoke. This plan will keep you in enough smoke to take care of yourself and share with friends, too.

Start the clones under fluorescent lights. If heat is a big problem, keep them under natural light during the day and switch to fluorescents after dark to minimize heat problems. Grow clones until they're well rooted and then move them into a 1-gallon/3-liter pot filled with good soil or soilless mix. You can grow the plants under 24 hours of light by putting them outdoors during the day and indoors at night under your 250-watt HPS. When the plants are about 12 inches tall, move them to their final garden spot outdoors. They will produce flower buds full of great smoke.

SEEDED BUDS

I grew three plants: two females and one male. By the time I realized I had a male, it was too late, and the females produced seeded buds that were still smokable. Can you give me advice about how to take care of the 20 plants I just got going upstairs in my house? How much light should I use? Is it okay to use fluorescent lights?

*Deb B.
Via Internet*

Dear Deb B.,
Taking care of your plants and knowing what stage of life they are in is important. This is why you didn't catch the male before he dispersed his pollen. Knowing a little bit about the botany and life cycle of your plants will go a long way toward helping you grow an abundant crop.



Cannabis needs lots of light to grow big, tight buds. Fluorescent lights supply ample light for most seedlings and small vegetative plants. Once the plants grow more than a few inches tall, however, fluorescent light isn't bright enough to spur strong, fast growth. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are much brighter and will carry the plants through the flowering stage. But CFLs must be placed closer to the plants, and it will take several to cover 20 plants.

My advice is to invest in a 400-watt HPS lamp and use it in conjunction with your fluorescent lights. Grow clones, vegetative plants and mother plants under the fluorescent lights and flower the female plants under the 400-watt HPS. Move the mother plant and larger vegetative plants around the HPS lamp when it's on; the extra light will speed their growth. You should also consider buying a good grow book. You can find many of them at fsbookco.com.

WATERING AND FEEDING COCO

Could you please help me with watering and feeding? It's my first time out and I'm growing with rockwool and coco, but I just can't seem to get it right.

GS
Via Internet

Dear GS,

If you're starting clones in rockwool cubes and moving them into coco slabs, or moving small blocks into a coco-soil mix, you should keep them well watered at all times. Once they're moved, make sure the roots penetrate the new medium and continue to grow. The nutrient mix is very important, because this is the only way the plants have to receive the nutrients necessary to grow. You can improve your success rate immensely by using an off-the-shelf fertilizer made for your precise grow situation. If you go to canna.com, you can get the exact mix you need—just fill out the "Grow Guide" chart in the "Grow Info" section. Of course, you'll need an EC (ppm) and pH pen to make the appropriate measurements later. Canna fertilizers work well for both coco and organic gardens.

Irrigate two to three times a day with an automatic watering system. If you water by hand, you can get by with a couple of irrigations. As your plants grow, they'll need more and more of the water/nutrient solution—from a quarter- to a half-quart per week to a quart or more per day in a small growroom. Always make sure there is plenty of drainage.

Jorge Cervantes is the author of *Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible* (January 2006), *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD* (shot in BC) and *Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD II* (shot in Spain), *Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor Bible*, *Marijuana Indoors: Five Easy Gardens*, *Marijuana Outdoors: Guerrilla Growing* and *Jorge's Rx*. He writes for 20 magazines in seven languages. Jorge's books are published in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Hit marijuana-growing.com for more information.

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GARDEN CALENDAR



OUTDOORS

Happy New Year! Prepared growers who planned for the future can dip into their stash of high-quality outdoor buds and share with friends to celebrate the New Year.

Surf by the HIGH TIMES website (hightimes.com) to check out the 21st Annual HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup prize-winning strains. Always hit seedbankupdate.com to do a little research on seed companies and see how well they serve customers and fulfill orders.

Days are a few minutes longer since December 21, the shortest day of the year. If you're growing in a warm climate or even under glass in northern regions, you can set out plants in containers as long as the temperature remains above 55°F during the day and night. (Below 50°F, plants stop growing completely.)

Grow clones indoors. Once vegetative clones are 1 to 2 feet tall, they're ready to be set outdoors or put in a greenhouse. The strong clones will start blooming in two to three weeks. Flowering could take longer, because light levels are less intense and the temperatures are cooler. Heat the root zone with electric soil-heating cables or pads; this is the most economical heat source. Move your plants indoors when the temperatures hit 40°F to 45°F.

Do not over-fertilize and be careful not to over-water, because your plants are growing more slowly now and can't use as much water or fertilizer as they did before. Add a little extra perlite to the soil mix for winter gardens to improve drainage.

Inspect plants for diseases and pests. Some molds love the cool, moist climates common in winter gardens.

Plant seeds indoors now to ensure

that your seedlings are big and strong when you move them outdoors or into a greenhouse in two to three months. If you plan to go on vacation now, do *not* plant seeds: Once they sprout, they need daily care for the first two weeks.

Buy some alfalfa hay and use it to mulch around the plants you have in the ground as well as where you plan to plant next year. Apply a thick layer (6 to 12 inches deep). This covering of mulch protects the soil from nutrient loss, and it can be tilled into the ground later. You can also work mulched soil six to eight weeks earlier, which means that you can start planting sooner!

Explore the area for new patches to plant. Some sites are best for spring crops, others for fall harvests. Once the trees start losing their leaves, guerrilla patches are easier to spot. If you're planning an early harvest, the site will be easier to conceal, since the plants will be harvested when they're still small and inconspicuous.

Examine stored buds for moisture and mold damage. Dry out the silicon packets stored with your stash before replacing them to ensure that your buds stay dry.

Sit down, fire up a spliff and plan your new garden!

INDOORS

This is one of the coldest months in the Northern Hemisphere. Cold outdoor air should not be allowed into the growroom. Direct cool incoming air to minimize temperature stress. Heat the cool incoming air by directing it through a portion of the warm home to alleviate temperature-stress problems. Air that is 5 to 10 degrees above or below the growroom temperature is safe to use.

Pest and diseases love the warm, protected climate in your grow-

room. Pests from houseplants are also attracted to the new succulent plants and will move in and start to reproduce. Spot-spray any plants that show signs of pests. I spray insects and spider mites with pyrethrum (Whitmire's Exclude) or neem oil (Einstein Oil).

Flush containers with three times as much mild nutrient solution (5% mix) as the volume of growing medium. Flush plants every 30 days to leach out any built-up fertilizer salts. A little work now will save you problems later. Check the EC (ppm) of the water runoff. If it's higher than the input water, you'll see just how toxic the mix was.

Keep track of soil moisture and nutrient uptake. Make a chart of water and fertilizer usage. You may find that your plants have started to consume less water in relation to fertilizer. Over-watered soil is very moist, and the roots below will be brown and slimy from rot (healthy roots are white and vibrant). Over-watering also brings on fungus gnats, which are easy to identify when they start jumping around on the soil surface. Control fungus gnats with Gnatrol.

Monitor and adjust the nutrient solution's EC (ppm) and pH every few days. Indoor temperature conditions can affect fertilizer uptake. Move the reservoir up off the floor and use an aquarium heater to keep the nutrient solution's temperature at proper levels.

Look for pests and diseases on plants. Take a careful peek inside flower buds to look for bud mold (botrytis). Check leaf undersides for spider mites. Cut out any areas affected by bud mold and destroy. Clean tools afterward with alcohol. Spray spider mites with pyrethrum or neem oil.

Take a security walk around the outside of the growroom to listen for strange noises from fans and ballasts. Are there any noticeable light leaks? What about telltale odors? Does your house look like all the other homes in the neighborhood?

Take clones and plant seedlings for the next crop. Plant seedlings at least a month before you plan to move them into the growroom. Take clones three weeks before you plan to transplant them into larger containers.

Keep your growroom clean, and scrub it down thoroughly after each harvest so you can move the next crop in and start growing! ✨

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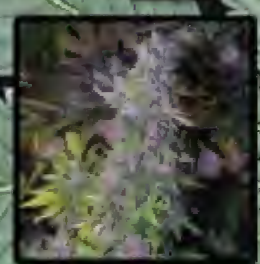
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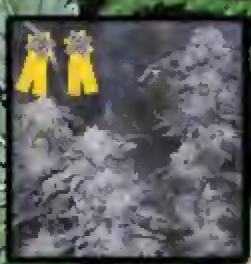
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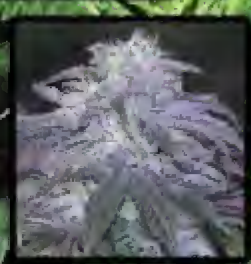
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Read about VISC in the March 2008 issue of High Times

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Liberty and VISC photos by Kat in Skunk issues #385 & #388

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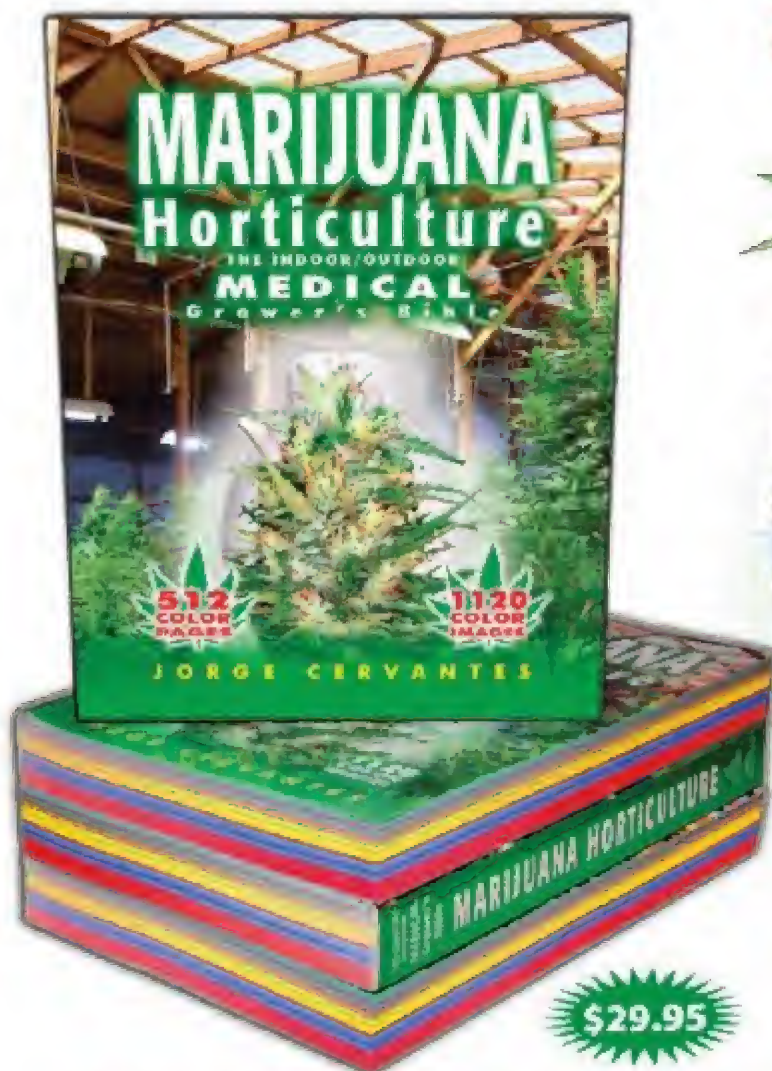
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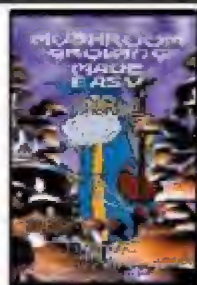
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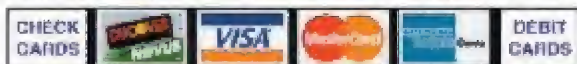
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10TH ANNUAL HYDRO REPORT

One of our biggest sellers each year, this issue packs a dozen pages of hydroponic information for the BEGINNER grower! Systems, nutrients, mediums and basic pitfalls of growing hydro are covered. Plus, Nico takes a second to pull some recurring hydro questions out of the mailbag to give readers extra insight into the world of growing with water.

GARDENING AND TECHNOLOGY EXPOSÉ

Nico visits North America's biggest indoor gardening expo to report on the latest and greatest in the world of cultivation. From nutrients to lights to crazy cloning technology, this article highlights the future of growing now.

THE MAYOR OF OAKSTERDAM

So you think school sucks? Well maybe you should check out Oaksterdam University, where you can learn all about your favorite plant. From the political to the botanical, classes on cannabis are being held right now in Oakland, America's most pot-friendly city. Founder Richard Lee sits down with HIGH TIMES for an in-depth interview.

CALIFORNIA CANNABIS KINGS

Winslow and Abraham Norton, two brothers in their early 20s, ran the largest medical cannabis club in history. They had a permit from the county, paid millions of dollars in taxes, yet in 2007 they were raided by the feds and are now facing charges that could put them in jail for 40 years. Were the Nortons guilty of anything other than their own success?

CANADIAN SEED CROPS

Deep in the remote wilderness of Vancouver Island, Canada's pot breeders are busy creating millions of high-quality cannabis seeds for the marijuana growing market. Danny Danko ventures into the Great White North to investigate outdoor seed-breeding fields for an inside look at clandestine pot production on a massive scale.

HALLELUJAH FOR CALIFORNIA'S HARVEST!

It's that glorious time of the year when the whole world seems fresh and green—especially if you're in Northern California! Senior editor Dan Skye visits the Emerald Triangle to see what's happening in the countryside. He's sure to experience some *high* drama!

PLUS: The World Stoner Games go down in Toronto.

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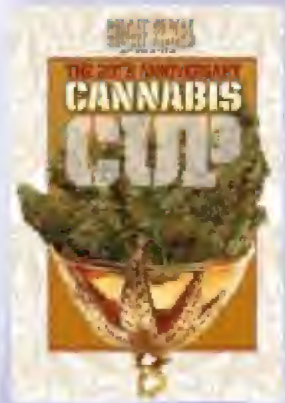
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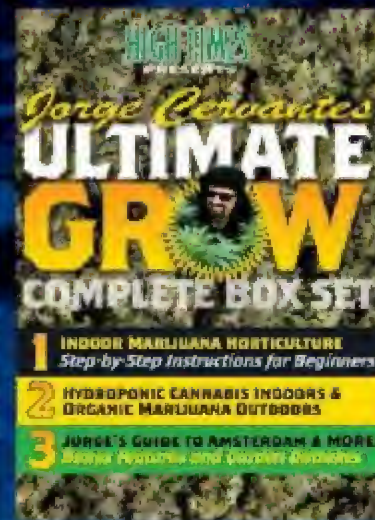
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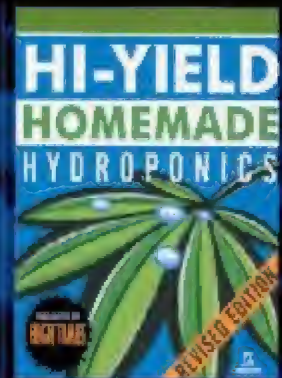
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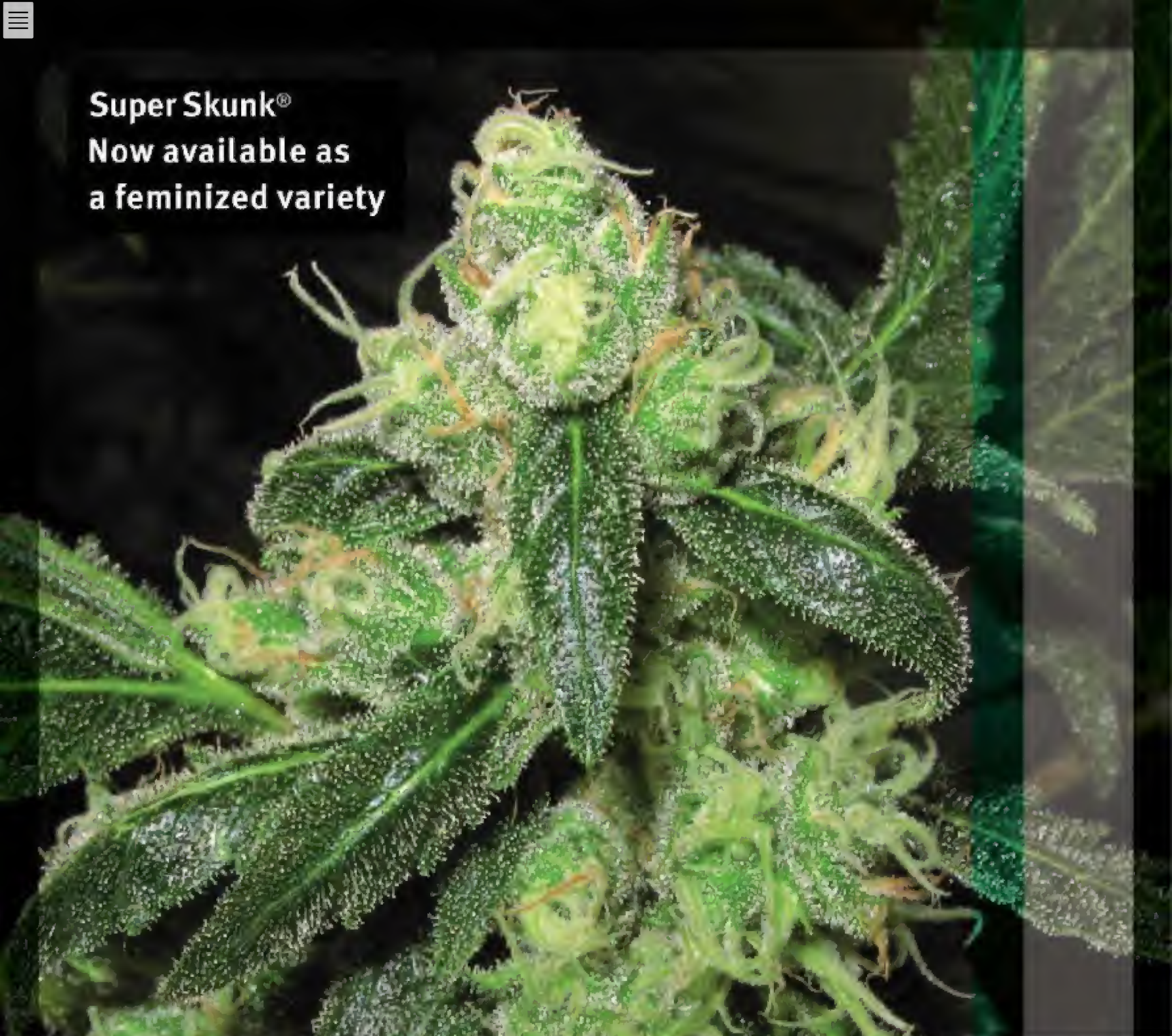
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